

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sacrament of Communion
Sunday, October 4, 2020
10:00 am**

Prelude

"Berceuse"

Vierne

Welcome

Hymn

"As We Gather at Your Table"

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy

Opening Litany (together)

Leader: This is the day that God has blessed us with.

People: Let us be grateful for it and for all that God has blessed us with.

Leader: Let us bless God's name;

People: By blessing others in God's name.

Leader: Let us commit ourselves to God's ways of compassion, justice
and love;

ALL: And keep those ways this and every day. Amen.

Solo *"Sure on this Shining Night"* Barber
Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Sure on this shining night of starmade shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me this side the ground.
The late year lies down the north. All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder
Wandering far alone of shadows on the stars.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer, including The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Music Meditation *"Waltz in A Minor, op. 34, #2"* Chopin

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

²⁶ When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and

described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

²⁸ So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

³¹ Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Message

The Sacrament of Communion

Solo

"I Want to Be Ready"

Burleigh

Paul Knox, soloist

I want to be ready, my Lord, to walk in Jerusalem, just like John.

John said the city was just four-square, walk in Jerusalem, just like John.

I want to be ready, my Lord, to walk in Jerusalem, just like John.

When Peter was preaching at Pentecost, walk in Jerusalem, just like John.

He was endowed with the Holy Ghost, walk in Jerusalem, just like John.

I want to be ready, my Lord, to walk in Jerusalem, just like John.

Blessing

- We are celebrating “Virtual Communion” this Sunday. You are invited to prepare and have ready a piece of whatever kind of bread you wish, as well as any kind of juice (or coffee, tea, etc.) you have available. Then at the appropriate time you will be invited to consume those.
- We encourage all members and friends of First Parish to remain with us immediately after the conclusion of our Worship this morning for our Virtual Friendship Time on Zoom. You can join the meeting by computer, tablet, iPad, or smart phone by clicking this link <https://zoom.us/j/720983063> Password- 244108
- Dial in with your phone and join using just audio at this number 1-301-715-8592 (Meeting ID- 720 983 063, Password- 244108). We welcome you for this time of additional community connection.
- “Deacon Fund” Support and Assistance – the “Deacon Fund” remains a vital means of assistance to FPC members in need, especially in this difficult and uncertain time. Contributions can be made “First Parish Church” with “Deacon Fund” in the memo section, and mailed to First Parish Church P.O. Box 187 Manchester, MA 01944. In addition, if a member of our spiritual community is need, please contact Rev. Mark to discuss available support.
- You can contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge @ [PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.firstparishchurchmanchester.org/)

- Manchester Affordable Housing Trust Announces Emergency Rental Housing Payment Assistance - The Manchester Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT), in collaboration with Action, Inc., a Gloucester-based human and social services agency, is offering short-term rental housing payment assistance to income eligible Manchester residents in response to job and income loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consistent with its mission to support and promote community affordable housing, the MAHT is reaching out to income eligible residents who are experiencing housing rent payment issues.

The MAHT can and wants to help during this difficult and uncertain time. For further information please contact Action, Inc. at 978-282-1000 or live chat at www.actioninc.org