

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sacrament of Communion
Stewardship Reflection
Sunday, November 1, 2020
10:00 am**

Prelude

"Andante Serioso"

DeGrigny

Welcome

Hymn

"O How Glorious, Full of Wonder"

O how glorious, full of wonder is your name o'er all the earth
God, who wrought creation's splendor, bringing stars and suns to birth!
Rapt in reverence we adore you, marveling at your mystic ways
Humbly now we bow before you, lifting up your hearts in praise

When we see your lights of heaven, moon and stars, your power
displayed

Who are we that you should love us, creatures that your hand has made
Born of earth, yet full of yearning, mixture strange of good and ill
From your ways so often turning, yet your love does seek us still

You have set us in communion with the wonders of your hand
Made us fly with eagle pinion, pilgrims over sea and land

Soaring spire and ruined city, these our hopes and failures show
Teach us more of human pity, that we in your image grow

O how wondrous, O how glorious is your name in every land
God, whose purpose shines before us toward the goal that you have
planned

Yours the will our hearts are seeking, conscious of our human need
Spirit in our spirit speaking, make us yours, O God, indeed

Opening Prayer

God of all our gifts, talents, and resources, You call us to use them for
the sake of others. You call us to live lives of generosity and service by
aiding and walking with those in need. You call us to be a community of
your people dedicated to showing the world a better way. It is the call
You gave us, and the call You gave those who came before us.

Move us then, to honor and build upon the work of our faith ancestors
of the wider church and this spiritual community. Lead us to carry on
their heritage in new ways. Open our eyes and hearts to recognize that,
like them, we will be imperfect people. So inspire us, as You did them,
to do our imperfect best for You and Your ways. Help us to leave Your
world, and this spiritual community, better than we found it.

We pray all this in the name of the One – Jesus - You sent to show us
and teach us how to help You build that better world and better
spiritual community. And we offer to You now the words he gave us...

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A Stewardship Reflection *"First Parish – For Such a Time as This"*

Allison Moir-Smith

Solo

"O Perfect Love "

Barnby, text Gurney

Paul Knox, soloist

O perfect Love, all human thought transcending, lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne, that theirs may be the love which knows no ending, whom thou forevermore dost join in one.

O perfect Life, be thou their full assurance of tender charity and steadfast faith, of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance with childlike trust that fears not pain, nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow; grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife; And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow that dawns upon eternal love and life. Amen.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation

"Heaven"

Ellington

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Heaven, my dream Heaven, divine Heaven, supreme
Heaven combines every sweet and pretty thing life would love to bring;
Heavenly heaven to be is just the ultimate degree to be.

The Apocrypha

Sirach 44:1-15

(Common English Bible Translation)

¹Now allow us to praise famous people and our ancestors, generation by generation. ²The Lord created great glory, his majesty from eternity.

³They ruled in their kingdoms, and made a name with their power, some giving counsel by their intelligence; some making pronouncements in prophecies; ⁴some leading the people by their deliberations, and by their understanding of the people's learning, giving wise words in their instruction; ⁵others devising musical melodies, and composing poems; ⁶rich people endowed with strength, living in peace in their dwellings—
⁷ all of these were honored in their generation, a source of pride in their time.

⁸Some of them left behind a name so that their praises might be told.

⁹For some there is no memory, and they perished as though they hadn't existed. These have become as though they hadn't been born, they and even their children after them.

¹⁰But these were compassionate people whose righteous deeds haven't been forgotten.

¹¹This will persist with their children; their descendants will be a good legacy.

¹²Their descendants stand by the covenants, and their children also, for their sake. ¹³Their descendants will last forever, and their glory will never be erased.

¹⁴Their bodies were buried in peace, but their name lives for generations.

¹⁵The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will proclaim their praise.

Message

The Sacrament of Communion

Piano Solo

"Nocturne in Eb, op.9, #2"

Chopin

Blessing

**** On this *All Saints Day* we remember those from our spiritual community who returned to God since last November 1:**

Margot Arntsen

Richard (Dick) Forsley

Virginia (Ginny) McCoy

Vincent (Vin) Terrill

- We are celebrating "Virtual Communion" today. 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. Do you miss gathering after worship with everyone? Check out our Virtual Friendship Time from October 11.
- "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/paytoemail?email=FPChurchManchester)

- 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