

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sunday, October 25, 2020
10:00 am**

Prelude

"Prelude in G"

Mendlesohn

Welcome

Hymn

"God Our Author and Creator"

God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own
Make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed downtrod
In all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God

Like those first apostles, Savior, give us strength to love and serve
When our fainting spirits waver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve
Teach us wisdom and compassion: bid our restless thoughts be still
By your guidance help us fashion lives conformed unto your will

Keep us faithful, Holy Spirit, help us bear the message true
That at last all lands may hear it: "God is love, Christ died for you"
Join our lives in mighty chorus till we come from every place
With all those who went before us, to the fullness of God's grace

Opening Prayer

Holy One, You have made us to share in the fullest of lives – ones of joy, peace, justice, kindness and service – lives of doing our best with the gifts and talents You have blessed us with in both easy and difficult days.

At times though, we fall short of Your hopes for us - sometimes from lack of understanding; sometimes out of carelessness; other times out of intent. But each time, You offer to take our hand and lift us back up. Each time, You invite us back to the celebration of life with You.

Help us then, to reach out a hand for You to grab hold of. Help us to take Your invitation seriously, and come to the celebration with our best.

We pray all this in the name of the One – Jesus - You sent to show us and teach us what that celebration of life in and with You looks and sounds like. 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.

Solo

"A Song of David " (Psalm 20)

Rorem

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me. Deliver my soul,
O Lord, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue.

What shall be given unto thee? Or what shall be done unto thee, thou
false Tongue? Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.

Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!
My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. I am for peace: but
when I speak, they are for war.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation

"Album Leaf"

Scriabin

The Gospels

Matthew 22:1-14

(New Century Version)

¹Jesus again used stories to teach them. He said, ²"The kingdom of
heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son. ³The
king invited some people to the feast. When the feast was ready, the
king sent his servants to tell the people, but they refused to come.

⁴"Then the king sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who have been
invited that my feast is ready. I have killed my best bulls and calves for
the dinner, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'

⁵ "But the people refused to listen to the servants and left to do other things. One went to work in his field, and another went to his business. ⁶ Some of the other people grabbed the servants, beat them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was furious and sent his army to kill the murderers and burn their city.

⁸ "After that, the king said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready. I invited those people, but they were not worthy to come. ⁹ So go to the street corners and invite everyone you find to come to my feast.' ¹⁰ So the servants went into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "When the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man who was not dressed for a wedding. ¹² The king said, 'Friend, how were you allowed to come in here? You are not dressed for a wedding.' But the man said nothing. ¹³ So the king told some servants, 'Tie this man's hands and feet. Throw him out into the darkness, where people will cry and grind their teeth with pain.'

¹⁴ "Yes, many are invited, but only a few are chosen."

Message

Solo *"My Soul is Filled with Joy" (Song of Hannah)* Lovelace
Paul Knox, soloist

My soul is filled with joy in God my Savior, for He has lifted me and set me high. There is no Holy One, no Rock like our God; He answered my

request, He heard my cry. All those who talk with pride now seek who God is: He weighs our deeds and knows our every word.

Proud ones are humbled, but the poor are lifted; all might and power belong to God the Lord. The strong have fallen, but the weak are strengthened; those who are hungry have enough to spare. She who was barren sees her children's children; all things are in the Lord's controlling care.

The Lord has set the earth on sure foundations, help for His saints is found in God alone. Those who oppose the Lord will fall in judgment, but He will strengthen His anointed one.

Blessing

- 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/US/mcharity/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 <<http://www.actioninc.org>.