

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Stewardship Reflection
Sunday, November 15, 2020
10:00 am**

Prelude

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Schroeder

Welcome

Hymn

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love

Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose

Take my will, your will be done; make your will and mine be one

Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place

Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow

Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community

Opening Prayer

Holy One, we gather together from different places, backgrounds, and circumstances. We thank You for the ways in which we are different, but just as much for the ways we are the same – for the hopes, dreams and concerns we share in common.

As we share in the life of this spiritual community, help us grow the divine spark You have placed in us, individually and together. Help us to trust in and commit to Your belief that we and the world can become what You created and call it to be.

Open us up to seeing the places and hearing the ways in which You ask us to play our part. Give us the courage to take chances on ourselves and others for the sake of Your ways, and find encouragement in even the smallest steps forward we take.

And may we do all this in the name of the One You sent to show us and teach us how to take those steps – our Brother, Teacher and Leader, Jesus – the One who gave us these words we now offer to You...

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"*

Liz Loomis

Solo *"My Way's Cloudy"* spiritual, arr. Burleigh
Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Chorus: Oh! brethren, my way, my way's cloudy, my way, Go send them
angels down,

Oh! brethren, my way, my way's cloudy, my way, Go send them angels
down.

This is the year of jubilee, Send them angels down,
The Lord has come and set us free, O send them angels down.

Chorus

Old Satan's mad, and I am glad, Send them angels down,
He missed the soul he thought he had, Send them angels down.

Chorus

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation *"A Bagatelle" (from "Sins of My Old Age")* Rossini

¹The spirit of God came upon Azariah son of Oded.

² He went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you, while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you abandon him, he will abandon you. ³ For a long time Israel was without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law; ⁴ but when in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them.

⁵ In those times it was not safe for anyone to go or come, for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands. ⁶ They were broken in pieces, nation against nation and city against city, for God troubled them with every sort of distress. ⁷ But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded."

⁸ When Asa heard these words, the prophecy of Azariah son of Oded, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the towns that he had taken in the hill country of Ephraim. He repaired the altar of the LORD that was in front of the vestibule of the house of the LORD. ⁹ He gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who were residing as aliens with them, for great numbers had deserted to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

Message

Solo

"Because of Thy Great Bounty"

Hoffmeister

Paul Knox, soloist

Because I have been given much, I, too, shall give. Because of Thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live I shall divide my gifts from Thee with every person that I see who has the need of help from me.

Because I have been sheltered, fed, by Thy good care, I cannot see another's lack and I not share my glowing fire, my loaf of bread, my roof's safe shelter overhead, that they, too, may be comforted.

Because love has been lavished so upon me, Lord, a wealth I know that was not meant for me to hoard, I shall give love to all I see, to all who need my sympathy. Thus shall I show my thanks to Thee.

Blessing

- Our Altar flowers today are provided by the Stewardship Committee in celebration of our Annual Fund Drive 2021. After the Worship time we are giving them to Liz Loomis to thank her for all the garden arrangements she provided this summer and fall. Thanks, Liz!
- 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

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>.