

**First Parish Church, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Worship Celebration  
Thanksgiving Sunday  
Consecration Sunday  
Jazz Sunday  
Sunday, November 22, 2020  
10:00 am**

**Prelude**

*"Bolivia"*

Cedar Walton

**Welcome**

**Hymn**

*"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored  
And they'll know we are Christians by our Love, by our Love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our Love

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in the Land  
And they'll know we are Christians by our Love, by our Love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our Love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard human dignity, and we'll save human pride  
And they'll know we are Christians by our Love, by our Love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our Love

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one  
And they'll know we are Christians by our Love, by our Love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our Love

### **Opening Prayer**

Holy One, we give You thanks for the blessings we have received this year. While they may have been more difficult to see in this time of sickness, death and struggle, they were still there. Or maybe they were even more apparent, shone even brighter to us because of the challenges we faced individually; as a family; in our community and nation; throughout Your world.

Either way, we thank You for the blessings of family, friends and this spiritual community. We thank You for providing us with the physical, emotional and spiritual resources we needed to meet the demands of this time. And we thank You for calling us to use our resources to bless those who do not have enough – enough food; enough shelter; enough safety; enough love.

We do all this in the name of the One You sent to embody Your blessings and call for how to use them – 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.

**Anthem**

*"My Tribute"*

Andrea Crouch

Carolyn Wilkins, Brian Price, Rebecca Shrimpton

How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me? Things so undeserved, that you gave to prove your love for me. The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude. All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, for the things He has done. With His blood he has saved me, with His power He has raised me. To God be the glory for the things He has done.

Just let me live my life; let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee. And should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary. With His Blood He has saved me....

## **Litany of Thanksgiving and Consecration**

**Leader:** For all that You have blessed us with to use in Your name and  
for the good of Your people;

**People: We thank You, O God**

**Leader:** Lead us to live each day with grateful hearts and open spirits;

**People: So we can hear and answer Your call for our time and place.**

**Leader:** Lead us to be a spiritual community that looks to heal the  
broken, care for the suffering, and help the lost find their  
way;

**People: So we might best serve each other, our community, this  
nation, and Your world.**

**Leader:** Lead us to practice the kind of giving and receiving  
relationships that bring us and others closer to wholeness;

**People: Understanding that our ways are not always Yours, and that  
others have much to teach us.**

**Leader:** And lead us, through the resources we pledge throughout this  
Stewardship season, to help You build and maintain at First  
Parish a place that will lift up generations of Your people to  
come;

**People: A place that will celebrate each other's blessings, comfort  
each other's sorrows, forgive each other's failings, and  
bear each other's burdens.**

**Amen.**

## **Anthem**

*"St. James Infirmary"*

arr. Longino, R. Shrimpton; lyrics, R. Shrimpton

Paul Knox, Rebecca Shrimpton, Carolyn Wilkins, Brian Price

I went down along the river: saw my country there. She was stretched out in broken pieces, so cold, so still, so fair. Let her go, let her go, God bless her. Too much sorrow ev'rywhere. Too many broken dreams, dear God, for one poor heart to bear.

I walked out across my country: stood among my people there. And side by side and hope by hope, we reclaimed her from despair. Let her rise, let her rise, God bless her. The load is light when we all share. With faith in God and in each other, hands can reach and hearts can dare.

Oh, when the saints go marchin' in, Oh when the saints go marchin' in,  
Oh Lord I want to be in that number, when the saints go marchin' in.

Oh, when the sun begins to shine...

Oh, when the trumpet sounds the call...

## **The Gospels**

**Matthew 25:1-13**

**(Common English Bible Translation)**

<sup>1</sup>At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom.

<sup>2</sup> Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but didn't bring oil for them. <sup>4</sup> But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.

<sup>5</sup> When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. <sup>8</sup> But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.' <sup>9</sup> But the wise bridesmaids replied, 'No, because if we share with you, there won't be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

<sup>10</sup> But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids came and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us.' <sup>12</sup> But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, keep alert, because you don't know the day or the hour.

## **Message**

## **Music Meditation**

## **Blessing**

## **Postlude**

*"Go Out with Joy"*

R. Shrimpton

Ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace

The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing  
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands

- On this Thanksgiving, Consecration and Jazz Sunday, we offer our enormous gratitude to our guest musicians, Carolyn Wilkins and Brian Price, for blessing us with their time and talents. We are also especially grateful to Rebecca Shrimpton for her loving efforts toward making it possible for us to share this special morning during this time of Covid-19.
- The flowers are donated in honor of our FPCC musicians: Rebecca Shrimpton, Paul Knox and Herman Weiss, who have made our online worship services so memorable for the last nine months, and to the special guest musicians who brought us the joy of jazz on this Jazz Sunday. The First Parish Church congregation is so grateful to all of you.
- This Morning's Jazz Musicians:

**Brian Price, tenor saxophone**

Brian grew up attending First Parish Church with his family. He began playing music with his father and in the Beverly public school system; he also studied with Leonard Hochman. As part of the Lost and Wandering Blues and Jazz Band, he has toured through the US, France, and Italy. He has performed in the US and Germany with New York-based musician Cooper-Moore, and is a member of the new CooperMoore Trio along with Pascal Niggenkemper.

### **Carolyn Wilkins, piano**

A jazz pianist and vocalist, Carolyn has been an active participant in the Boston music scene for over 20 years as a performer, educator and composer. She has performed on radio and television with her group SpiritJazz and toured South America as a Jazz Ambassador for the US State Department performing with the Pittsburgh Symphony under Andre Previn. A graduate of Oberlin Conservatory and Eastman School of Music, Carolyn is Professor at Berklee College and author of several books, including the novel, *Death at a Séance*, and her own family history, *Damn Near White: An African American Family's Journey from Slavery to Bittersweet Success* (University of Missouri Press).

### **Rebecca Shrimpton, vocalist**

Rebecca has been praised by Downbeat magazine, AllMusic Guide, All About Jazz, and Britain's Jazzwise Magazine. She has performed/recorded with Joe Lovano, Steve Lacy, Oliver Lake, George Russell, George Lewis, and blues organist Mike Finnigan, as well as the Jazz Composers Alliance Orchestra, Ayn Insetto's Jazz Orchestra, OddSong, and acclaimed early music group Tapestry. Also a classical mezzo soprano, Rebecca is soloist for First Parish Church and Associate Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music.

- 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/paytofirstparishchurchmanchester)
- 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)<<http://www.actioninc.org>.