

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sunday, January 10, 2021
10:00 am**

Prelude

"Take My Hands and Lead Me"

Wienhorst

Welcome

Hymn

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life"

O Holy Spirit, Root of life
Creator, cleanser of all things
Anoint our wounds, awaken us
With lustrous movement of your wings

Eternal Vigor, Saving One
You free us by your living Word
Becoming flesh to wear our pain
And all creation is restored

O Holy Wisdom, Soaring Power
Encompass us with wings unfurled
And carry us, encircling all
Above, below, and through the world

Opening Prayer

Holy One, we have entered into another new year. But while the page on the calendar has turned, we have not left the struggles of the past year behind. They remain with us, still leaving us exhausted, frustrated, confused, angry.

In this new year though, as in every year, You have given us everything we need to do our part in bringing our lives, this nation, and the world closer to Your vision for them. You have given us all the material and spiritual gifts we need to make peace, provide justice, and create reconciliation. You have offered us Your Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.

Open us up to it. Open us up to the courage Your Spirit offers. Open us up to the honesty it demands. Open us up to the compassion and wisdom that are its gifts.

You have given us everything we need to make things better – to make them right. Now give us Your Spirit's greatest gift - the will to do Your will.

We pray all this in the name of the One who has come - Jesus – the One who, inspired by Your Holy Spirit, would call on us to pray...

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

"Les Cloches" (The Bells)

Debussy

(sung in French)

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

English translation:

The leaves opened upon the edge of the branches, delicately. The bells rang, light and free, in the clear sky. Rhythmically and fervently, like an antiphon, this distant call reminded me of the Christian whiteness of altar flowers.

These bells told of happy years, and, in the great forest, seemed to revive the withered leaves of days gone by.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation

"Entr'acte" (from "Rosamunde")

Schubert

The Gospels

Luke 3:21-22, 4:1-13

(New International Version Translation)

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours."

⁸ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

¹² Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Message

Solo

"The Lost Chord"

Sullivan, words by Proctor

Paul Knox, soloist

Seated one day at the keyboard I was weary and ill at ease,
And my fingers wandered idly over the noisy keys;
I know not what I was playing, or what I was dreaming then;
But I struck one chord of music, like the sound of a great Amen,
Like the sound of a great Amen.

It flooded the crimson twilight, like the close of an Angel's Psalm,
And it lay on my fevered spirit, with a touch of infinite calm.
It quieted pain and sorrow, like love overcoming strife.
It seemed the harmonious echo, from our discordant life.

It linked all perplexed meanings into one perfect peace,
And trembled away into silence, as if it were loath to cease.
I have sought, but I seek it vainly, that one lost chord divine,
Which came from the soul of the keyboard and entered into mine.

It may be that Death's bright Angel will speak in that chord again;
It may be that only in Heav'n, I shall hear that grand Amen.

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.

- Annual Fund Drive 2021 letters and pledge cards have been sent. If you didn't receive one, please call the Church Office 978-526-7661 ext. 1 or Mary Ellen Cook at 978-500-0018 to have another sent. You can also download a pledge card [here](#)
- "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 in 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/merchot/?x=1&source=merchot&merchantid=123456789)
- 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>.