

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sunday, February 14, 2021
10:00 am**

Prelude

"Four Fugues in C Major"

Pachelbel

Welcome

Hymn

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey

I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, wher-e'er I turn my eye
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there

Opening Prayer

Move us to be there, O God.

Move us to be there for people who are hungry when we are not. When Your people do not have enough to eat, move us to see; to feel; to do.

Move us to be there for people who live in harm's way when we do not. When Your people live in unsafe surroundings, move us to see; to feel; to do.

Move us to be there for people who are in despair when we are not. When Your people live in spiritual pain, move us to see; to feel; to do.

Move us to be there for people who are physically and emotionally alone when we are not. When Your people feel isolated, lonely and invisible, move us to see; to feel; to do.

We pray all this in the name of the One - Jesus – You sent to teach us and show us that as You are always with the hungry; the endangered; the despairing; and the lonely, we must be too. We pray to You with 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

"Crossing the Bar"

Buck, poem by A. Tennyson

Paul Knox, soloist

Sunset, and evening star, and one clear call for me, and may there be no moaning of the bar when I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep, too full for sound or foam, when that which drew from out the boundless deep turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark; and may there be no sadness of farewell when I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of time and place the flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation

"Impromptu in G flat Major", op. 90 #3

Schubert

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

The Psalms

Psalm 102:1-9

(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD;
let my cry come to you.

² Do not hide your face from me

in the day of my distress.

Incline your ear to me;

answer me speedily in the day when I call.

³ For my days pass away like smoke,

and my bones burn like a furnace.

⁴ My heart is stricken and withered like grass;

I am too wasted to eat my bread.

⁵ Because of my loud groaning

my bones cling to my skin.

⁶ I am like an owl of the wilderness,

like a little owl of the waste places.

⁷ I lie awake;

I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.

⁸ All day long my enemies taunt me;

those who deride me use my name for a curse.

⁹ For I eat ashes like bread,

and mingle tears with my drink

The Hebrew Scriptures

2 Kings 2:1-12

(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

¹ Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of

prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you

know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰ He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."

¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Message

Solo

"The Prayer"

Foster, words by Sager

"Lead Us, Lord"

Wesley, from Psalm 5

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

We pray you'll be our eyes, and watch us where we go, and help us to be wise in times when we don't know.

Let this be our prayer when we lose our way. Lead us to a place, guide us with your grace to a place where we'll be safe.

We pray we'll find Your light, and hold it in our hearts as darkness falls each night, remind us where You are.

Let this be our prayer, when shadows fill our day. Lead us to a place, guide us with Your grace. Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Lead us, Lord, lead us in Your righteousness; make Your way plain for us to see. We pray we'll find Your light, and hold it in our hearts as darkness falls each night; remind us where You are.

Let this be our prayer, just like ev'ry child needs to find a place, guide us with Your grace. Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Lead us to a place, guide us with Your grace to a place where we'll be safe. Lead us, Lord.

Blessing

- Members of First Parish Church Congregational, United Church of Christ, Manchester by the Sea, MA:

You are hereby notified to meet online (virtual) on Sunday, February 21, 2021 immediately following the Worship Service, for the following purposes:

To wit:

ARTICLE I: To accept the report of the Annual Business Meeting held on February 02, 2020

ARTICLE II: To see what action the Church will take in regard to the budget proposal for 2021 as submitted by the Church Council.

ARTICLE III: To hear and act upon the reports of the Financial Secretary, the Board of Trustees, the Christian Education Committee, the Diaconate Board, the Missions Committee, the Music Committee, the Stewardship Committee, and the Vitality Committee.

ARTICLE IV: To hear and act upon any other business of a financial nature that may come before the meeting.

George A. Nickless, Clerk

- 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

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>.