

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sunday, January 17, 2021
10:00 am**

Prelude

"Fughetta"

Muffat

Welcome

Hymn

"O Day of God, Draw Near"

O Day of God, draw near, in beauty and in power
Come with your timeless judgement now to match our present hour

Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid
The quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed

Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure
And finely build for days to come foundations that endure

Bring to our world of strife your sovereign word of peace
That war may haunt the earth no more and desolation cease

O Day of God, draw near as at creation's birth
Let there be light again and let your reign begin on earth

Opening Prayer (adapted, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

God, we thank you for the life, lessons and leadership of Jesus.

In response, may we love You with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as we love ourselves – even our enemy neighbors.

And we ask You, Lord, in these days of emotional tension, when the problems of the world and our nation are gigantic in scope and chaotic in detail, to be with us in our going out and coming in; in our rising up and in our lying down; in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow.

We ask You to be with us until the day of Your ways dawns.

We pray all this in the name of the One who has come - Jesus – the One You sent to lead us to that day. We pray 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.

Piano Solo *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"* Dorsey, arr. Phillips

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Meditation

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" spiritual, arr. Larson

Paul Knox, soloist

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart; in my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart; in my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart; in my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart; in my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy. Lord, I want to be more loving. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

The Hebrew Scriptures

1 Samuel 3:1-18

(Common English Bible Translation)

¹ Now the boy Samuel was serving the LORD under Eli. The LORD's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known.

² One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. ³ God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the LORD's temple, where God's chest was.

⁴ The LORD called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

⁵ Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

⁶ Again the LORD called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(⁷ Now Samuel didn't yet know the LORD, and the LORD's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.) ⁸ A third time the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the LORD who was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

¹⁰ Then the LORD came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

¹¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of all who hear it tingle! ¹² On that day, I will bring to pass against Eli everything I said about his household—every last bit of it ¹³ I told him that I would punish his family forever because of the wrongdoing he knew about—how his sons were cursing God, but he wouldn't stop them. ¹⁴ Because of that I swore about Eli's household that his family's wrongdoing will never be reconciled by sacrifice or by offering."

¹⁵ Samuel lay there until morning, then opened the doors of the LORD's house. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel, saying: "Samuel, my son!"

"I'm here," Samuel said.

¹⁷ "What did he say to you?" Eli asked. "Don't hide anything from me. May God deal harshly with you and worse still if you hide from me a single word from everything he said to you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

"He is the LORD," Eli said. "He will do as he pleases."

Message

Solo

"Power of Your Love"
Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Bullock, arr. Larson

Lord, I come to You; let my heart be changed, renewed, flowing from the grace that I've found in You.

And Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me will be stripped away by the power of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me. Bring me near, draw me to Your side. As I walk, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You; Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

Lord, unveil my eyes; let me see You face to face, the knowledge of Your love as You live in me.

Lord, renew my mind as Your will unfolds in my life, in living every day by the power of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me. Bring me near, draw me to Your side. As I walk, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You; Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

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.

- The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- 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 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/paytoemail?email=FPChurchManchester@gmail.com)
- 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