

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sunday, January 24, 2021
10:00 am**

Prelude

"All Glory Be to God on High"

Pachelbel

Welcome

Hymn

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more
Feed me till I want no more

Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield
Ever be my strength and shield

When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on heaven's side
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever sing to you
I will ever sing to you

Opening Prayer

God of all we have, do and are, You have blessed us with everything we need to do our part in bringing the world closer to Your vision for it. You have given us the material and spiritual resources we need to be Your hands, heart and voice to and for others.

In this time of physical, emotional and political struggle, we want to be those hands, heart and voice. We want to help make things better, but feel overwhelmed as to how. Help us remember that You are not asking us to change or save the world alone, but are asking us to change ourselves.

As we gather together now to hear You speak to us, help us to hear how and where You need us to change, so that in becoming a better version of ourselves, we might help make a better version of Your world.

We pray all this in the name of the One - Jesus – that You sent to lead us to that better version of ourselves and Your world. 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.

Solo

"Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"

Doerksen

Paul Knox, soloist

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God. One day every knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now. Oh, come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

Come now, come now; come to worship, come now, come.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation

"Sarabande Double"

Bach

¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.

² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵ And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶ He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house.

¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage.

¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Message

Solo

"Give God, the Father, Praise"

Schutz

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Give God, the Father, your unending praise. Give God, the Father, power and glory. Hallelujah.

Give God, the Father, give the glory of His name. Worship God, the Father, in the beauty of holiness. Hallelujah.

All of mankind bow before Thee, and do sing to Thee. Sing praises to Thy Holy Name. Hallelujah.

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 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/donate/?url=https://www.firstparishchurchmanchester.org)
- 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>.