

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sunday, April 11, 2021
10:00 am**

Prelude

"Aria detto Balletto"

Frescobaldi

Welcome

Hymn

"Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"

Joy dawned again on Easter Day
The sun shone out with bright array
For when the Apostles hid in fear
The Risen Christ to them appeared

O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One
Come take our hearts to be your own
That we may give you all our days
The willing tribute of our praise

O Sovereign One, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide
From every weapon death can wield
Your own redeemed forever shield

Opening Prayer

At that first Easter, O God, You raised Jesus, as You promise to raise us. But as Your Easter people, You also call us to rise now.

You call us to rise and go toward places we have never been, and may not want to go – into lives saddened, struggling and suffering. You call us to go toward those who are strangers to us and those we are estranged from. You call us to rise and go toward those we love, those who are unloved, and those we find unlovable.

Help us to rise and go, Holy One. And when we get there, help us to listen carefully, think openly, forgive graciously, and love unconditionally.

The way Jesus did. The way Jesus calls us to.

And so we rise this morning and say to You now the words the Risen Jesus 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. Ame

Solo

"In My Life"

Lennon and McCartney

Paul Knox, soloist

There are places I'll remember all my life, though some have changed. Some forever, not for better, some have gone, and some remain.

All these places had their moments with lovers and friends, I still can recall.

Some are dead, and some are living: in my life, I've loved them all.

But of all these friends and lovers there is no one compares with you, and these memories lose their meaning when I think of love as something new.

Though I know I'll never lose affection for people and things that went before. I know I'll often stop and think about them; in my life, I'll love you more.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation

"La fille aux cheveux de lin"

Debussy

Dr. Bonnie Anderson, piano

The New Testament

1 John 1:1-9

(New International Version Bible Translation)

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

"Ask the Minister"

The Sacrament of Communion

Solo

"Hymn of Promise"

Sleeth, arr. Larson

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity; in our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Blessing

Closing

"God Be in My Head"

Davies

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and after my departing.

- We welcome Bonnie Anderson our guest musician this morning. Bonnie has a varied career playing chamber music recitals, church services, weddings, memorial services, and teaching students ages 12-86. She especially enjoys collaborating with musicians from the Boston Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. Highlights of her collaborations include a performance of Hindemith's Trio for Saxophone, Viola and Piano with Branford Marsalis and Christof Huebner at the Nantucket Musical Arts Society Series, a recital with trumpeter Joseph Foley at the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra Unleashed Series in Houston, recitals with Four-Hand Piano partner Stella Owen in Boston, and pianist with Music on the Hill Chamber Music Festival in Rhode Island. As orchestral pianist, Bonnie performs with Orchestra of Indian Hill and as substitute keyboard player with Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Concord Orchestra, and Portland Symphony. An enthusiastic educator, Bonnie teaches at Phillips

Andover Academy, at her studio in Manchester-by-the-Sea, and online via FaceTime and Zoom. Projects during quarantine have included two-keyboard outdoor concerts with Stella Owen, online workshops with students, and preparing for a solo video project at Shalin Liu Performance Center. Bonnie's recordings include a solo piano disc, collaborative disc with Joe Foley (trumpet/cornet/flugelhorn), and sample recording with cellist Trevor Handy. Bonnie attended the Juilliard School, Michigan State University, French Piano Institute in Paris, and received her doctorate in piano performance at Boston University.

- We will be celebrating "Virtual Communion" this morning. You are invited to prepare and have ready a piece of whatever kind of bread you wish, as well as any kind of juice you have available (or, if you wish, coffee or tea). Then, at the appropriate time you will be invited to consume those.
- 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.
- "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.me/FPChurchManchester)
- Click to read *The Church Bell Newsletter* of First Parish Church Congregational
- 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>.