

**First Parish Church, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Worship Celebration  
First Sunday in Lent  
Annual Business Meeting  
Sunday, February 21, 2021  
10:00 am**

**Prelude**

*"O Perfect Gift of Love"*

Canning

**Welcome**

**Hymn**

*"O Jesus, I Have Promised"*

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end  
Remain forever with me, my Savior and my Friend  
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side  
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide

O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control  
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
That where you are in glory your servant shall be too  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end  
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend

## Opening Prayer

O God, You sent Jesus to teach and show us the way to You and the life You call us to. Lead our minds, hearts and spirits to follow him there.

Help us to keep going no matter what the path looks like at times. Help us to keep going when there are no clear signs to guide or inspire us along the way. Help us to keep going when the gain is unseen or uncertain.

Help us to go and keep going, Holy One, through this season of Lent and beyond. Because in our going, You promise we will find spiritual strength, resilience and wisdom.

And so together, we say to You now the words that Jesus - the One who calls us to go with him, now and always - 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**                                    *"I Stood on the River of Jordan"* spiritual, arr. Burleigh  
Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

I stood on the river of Jordan, to see that ship come sailing over; stood on the river of Jordan, to see that ship sail by.

O mourner, don't you weep when you see that ship come sailing over!  
Oh mourner, don't you weep when you see that ship sail by.

O sister, you better be ready to see that ship come sailing over; brother,  
you better be ready to see that ship sail by.

O mourner, don't you weep when you see that ship come sailing over!  
Shout 'Glory Hallelujah' when you see that ship sail by.

I stood on the river of Jordan.

## **Prayer Intentions**

### **Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer**

**Music Meditation**      *"When Peace Like a River"*      Spafford, arr. Robbins  
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

## **The Gospels**

### **Luke 15: 1-10, 25-32**

#### **(New Revised Standard Version Translation)**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them,

'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."...

<sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

## Message

### Duet

*"Lamb of God"*

Paris, arr. Larson

Paul Knox and Rebecca Shrimpton, vocalists

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but You have sent Him from Your side to walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love they crucified, they laughed and scorned Him as he died, the humble King they named a fraud, and sacrificed the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God. Oh wash me in His precious blood. My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was so lost I should have died, but You have brought me to your side to be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God. O wash me in His precious blood, 'till I am just a lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the holy Lamb of God. O wash me in His precious blood, 'till I am just a lamb of God.

### Blessing

- The flowers on the altar are from the Gudonis family, in celebration of the birth of Lauren and Paul's two new grandsons, the "twin cousins!" On Wednesday, February 10, Peter and KC Gudonis, in Chicago, became the proud parents of Wesley (Wes) Grant Gudonis, 7 lbs, 5 oz.

Then on Friday, February 12, Thea Gudonis and Gabe McConkey, in Philadelphia, became the proud parents of Kit Paul McConkey, 9 lbs, half an oz.

All are doing well and we can't wait for it to be safe to travel!

- 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

- **Due to the Annual Business Meeting we will not hold our Virtual Friendship Time on Zoom this morning.**



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)<<http://www.actioninc.org>.