

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Second Sunday in Lent
Sunday, February 28, 2021
10:00 am**

Prelude

"Christ the Life of All the Living"

Bach

Welcome

Hymn

"O How Shall I Receive You"

O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way
Blessed hope of every people, my soul's delight and stay?
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light
To know what-e'er is pleasing and welcome in your sight

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you unto me
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty
O love, beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race

You come, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill
To bring an end to sadness, and bid our fears be still
In patient expectation we live for that great day
When a renewed creation your glory shall display

Opening Prayer (adapted, Ruth C. Duck)

Eternal God, from the beginning of time, You have called us into covenant and communion with You. Yet too often we have turned to our own ways instead. Too often we have refused Your love and grace. Restore us to the fullness of life You created us for. Help us to be part of Your reign on this earth - in this life - through following Jesus, the bringer of Your good news for all people.

We pray to You now in the words he came and gave us, saying...

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

"O Rest in the Lord" (from "Elijah")

Mendlesohn

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him, and He shall give thee thy heart's desires. Commit thy way unto Him, and trust in Him, and fret not thyself because of evildoers.

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him, and He shall give thee thy heart's desires. O rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

The Gospels

Matthew 18:21-35

(Common English Bible Translation)

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.

²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. ²⁵ Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. ²⁶ But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' ²⁷ The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

²⁸ "When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, 'Pay me back what you owe me.' ²⁹ "Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' ³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

³¹ "When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. ³² His master called the first servant and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. ³³ Shouldn't you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?'

³⁴ His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

³⁵ "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don't forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Message

Solo

"Beneath the Cross"

Keith and Kristyn Getty

Paul Knox, soloist

arr. Fettke

Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand, and wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am. For hands that should discard me hold wounds which tell me, "come." Beneath the cross of Jesus, my unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, His family is my own. Once strangers chasing selfish dreams; now one thro' grace alone. How could I now dishonor the ones that You have loved? Beneath the cross of Jesus, see the children called by God.

There's a hiding place beneath the mighty cross. I find mercy there and a refuge for the lost.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown, we follow in His footsteps where promised hope is found. How great the joy before us to be His perfect bride. Beneath the cross of Jesus, we will gladly live our lives. Beneath the cross of Jesus.

Blessing

- The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Wilma Clark, Cindy Boyea's aunt, in loving memory and honor of Cindy's parents, James Sr. and Margaret Clark Seeley.
- 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.com/donate/?url=https://www.firstparishchurchmanchester.org)
- Click to read *The Church Bell Newsletter* of First Parish Church Congregational, [February 2021](#).
- 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>.