

**First Parish Church, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Worship Celebration  
Third Sunday in Lent  
Sacrament of Communion  
Sunday, March 7, 2021  
10:00 am**

**Prelude**

*"Savior, When in Dust to Thee"*

Bunjes

**Welcome**

**Hymn**

*"Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way"*

Teach me, O Lord, your holy way  
And give me an obedient mind  
That in your service I may find  
My heart's delight from day to day

Help me, O Savior, here to trace  
The sacred footsteps you have trod  
And fully trusting in my God  
To grow in goodness, truth and grace

Guard me, O Christ, that I may ne'er  
Forsake the right, or do the wrong  
Against temptation make me strong  
And keep me in your sheltering care

Bless me in every task I face  
Begun, continued, done for you  
Fulfill your will in all I do  
And grant me your abundant grace

## **Opening Prayer**

Holy One, we continue our journey together through Lent – the journey Jesus calls us to today and always.

But once again, the journey is different. Once again we travel together in spirit, but not as much in body. Once again, we know the road is there, but we are less able to walk it side by side.

Yet, once again, as always, You are there to guide us. Once again, as always, Your presence is certain; Your strength reliable; Your light there to lead us. Once again, as always, we trust that You will be with us wherever the road leads.

Help us to see Your light. To walk in that certainty. And to share it as best we can with each other.

We pray to You now in the words that Jesus - the One who calls us to journey with him - 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.

**Organ Solo**

*"When in the Hour of Utmost Need"*

J.M. Bach

Dr. Herman Weiss, organist

**Prayer Intentions**

**Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer**

**Music Meditation**

*"How Beautiful"*

Paris

Rebecca Shrimpton and Paul Knox, vocalists

How beautiful the hands that served the wine and the bread and the children of earth. How beautiful the feet that walked the long dusty roads and the hill to the cross. How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

How beautiful the heart that bled, that took all my sin and bore it instead. How beautiful the tender eyes that chose to forgive and never despise. How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

And as he lay down His life, we offer this sacrifice that we will live just as he died: willing to pay the price, willing to pay the price.

How beautiful the feet that bring the sound of good news and the love of the King. How beautiful the hands that serve the wine and the bread and the children of earth. How beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

## The Gospels

## Luke 18:1-14

### (New International Version Bible Translation)

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

<sup>2</sup> He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' <sup>4</sup> "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

<sup>9</sup> To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

<sup>10</sup> "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' <sup>13</sup> "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look

up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

<sup>14</sup> "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

## Message

### The Sacrament of Communion

**Solo**

*"I Know"*

Bruce

Rebecca Shrimpton, vocals; Paul Knox, guitar

I said, "God, I hurt." God said, "I know." "God, I get so depressed at times. He said, "That's why I gave you sunshine."

I said, "God, my loved one died." God said, "So did mine." Oh God, mine was such a loss. He said, "They nailed mine to a cross."

Chorus:

He said, "I know. Did I not make you? The covenant is sealed, I'll not forsake you. You're not alone, I'm all around you. My glory is revealed, my love surrounds you. I know."

I said, "But God, your loved one lives." And He said, "So does yours." I asked Him where they are tonight. He said, "Be at peace, my child, they are in my light."

Chorus

I said, "God, I hurt." And God said, "My child, I know."

## **Blessing**

## **Closing**

*"God Be with You"*

Williams

- 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.com/donate/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffpchurchmanchester.org)
- 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) <<http://www.actioninc.org>.