



**First Parish Church, Congregational  
On the Village Green  
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts**

*Awaken to the Light and Love of God;  
Be a Joyful Beacon to the World*

Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea, Minister  
Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music and Organist

**First Parish Church, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Worship Celebration  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Sacrament of Communion  
Sunday, May 2, 2021  
10:00 am**

**Prelude**                    *"This is the Day the Lord Has Made"*                    Hark

**Welcome**

**Hymn**                    *"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"* see last page

**Opening Prayer**

Holy One, today we are a new creation.

We cannot all be together in person – yet. But we *are* all together  
in Your spirit.

We cannot hug or touch each other – yet. But we *will* touch and hug each other through the presence of Your Holy Spirit.

We cannot move freely around this space – yet. But we will all *be* moved by what we and You do in it.

We are not as we once were.

Today, we are a new creation. Your new creation. The Spirit of Easter embodied in a new way.

And in that Spirit, we pray to You now with the words the Risen One gave us on our lips, hearts, minds and spirits...

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**

*"Above and Beyond"* Carroll and Smith

Paul Knox, soloist

All I ever wanted was someone to care for me, someone to always be there for me right through the good and the bad. I spent a long time hoping that just one time a portion of love I would find. Then you came along and gave me so much more.

Above and beyond my needs Your love has carried me when I was not strong enough to make it on my own. Your love has calmed my fears, I know You're always near. Only a love so strong could come from above and beyond.

Just a cup of water was all that I needed; all alone in my darkness I pleaded for someone to answer my call. Then your love washed away all the pain the moment I called out Your name. You filled up my heart and I won't be the same.

Above and beyond my needs Your love has carried me when I was not strong enough to make it on my own. Your love has calmed my fears, I know You're always near. Only a love so strong could come from above and beyond.

## **Prayer Intentions**

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

#### **Music Meditation**

*"Bagatelle in G, op. 126, #5"* Beethoven

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

#### **The New Testament**

**Acts: 15:1-2, 6-20**

**(New Revised Standard Translation)**

<sup>15</sup> Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." <sup>2</sup> And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders.

<sup>6</sup> The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. <sup>7</sup> After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and

become believers. <sup>8</sup> And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; <sup>9</sup> and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

<sup>12</sup> The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. <sup>13</sup> After they finished speaking, James replied, “My brothers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. <sup>15</sup> This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

<sup>16</sup> ‘After this I will return,  
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;  
from its ruins I will rebuild it,  
and I will set it up,

<sup>17</sup> so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—  
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things <sup>18</sup> known from long ago.'

<sup>19</sup> Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, <sup>20</sup> but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood.

## **Message**

### **The Sacrament of Communion**

**Solo**                                    *"Old Time Religion"*    Anonymous, arr. Zaninelli  
Rebecca Shrimpton , soloist

Gimme that old time religion, gimme that old time religion, gimme that old time religion, it's good enough for me.

It was good for our mothers, it was good for our mothers, it was good for our mothers, it's good enough for me.

Makes me love ev'rybody, makes me love ev'rybody, makes me  
love ev'rybody, it's good enough for me.

It will do when I'm dying, it will do when I'm dying, it will do when  
I'm dyin', it's good enough for me.

It will take us all to heaven, It will take us all to heaven, It will take  
us all to heaven, it's good enough for me.

Gimme that old time religion, gimme that old time religion, gimme  
that old time religion, it's good enough for me. It's good enough  
for me.

## **Blessing**

**Closing**        *"Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God)"*  
Zulu Song, arr. Rao

- The flowers on the altar today are given by Jeff and Sue Parker with gratitude for our regathering this morning. In the words of the prophet Isaiah 60:4 - "Lift up your eyes round about and



see; They all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, And your daughters will be carried in the arms.”

- We are celebrating the Sacrament of Communion today. Individual Communion packets are available to those here in person. For those attending online, you are invited to prepare and have ready a piece of whatever kind of bread you wish, as well as any kind of juice (or coffee, tea, etc.) you have available. Then at the appropriate time you will be invited to share 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.

- **Sunday Morning Regathering Today:** Today we regather in person for Sunday Morning Worship celebrations. Specifics on protocols are below.
  - Church doors will open at **9:40 a.m.** for attendees
  - Deacons and Volunteers will be there to greet you outside as well as seat you inside
  - Contact info for attendees will be taken in the event contact tracing becomes necessary
  - Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex should you wish to use it
  - **Masks are required** for all but the Worship team
  - Seating will be socially distanced, with household units being able to sit together or as near to each other as possible depending on available pews
  - The front pews will not be available in order to keep appropriate distance from the Worship leaders up front and in the Chancel
  - For now, the format for Worship will remain as it has been since last March.
  - All those in attendance will have the opportunity to both sing the Opening Hymn and say the Opening Prayer

- Paper Bulletins will be available for you either on your seat or on a table for you to take as you enter the Sanctuary
- There will be no formal Offering, but attendees are invited to place any offering they wish as they leave Worship in a plate which will be placed at the back of the Sanctuary
- For May 2, as well as all Communion Sundays for now, the Deacons have obtained individual Communion packets which will be available as you enter the Sanctuary
- At the conclusion of Worship, Mark will invite attendees to leave, beginning with those in the back of the Sanctuary and working toward those in the front

At the same time, please note that **“Virtual Worship” is also here to stay** so that we can continue to be one in Worship in the event that you might not be ready yet, or are unable to be with us in-person.

- “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



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>.

- **Spiritual Growth**

Wednesday **Prayer and Meditation** in May will take place on May 5 and 19th from 7-7:45pm via Zoom.

For May, **Bible Study** will take place from 4-5:15 on: Thursday, May 6, 13, 20 and 27

- **Spiritual Exploration**

Our next study unit began on Tuesday, April 27:

***“Widows to Warriors”***

Tuesdays, April 27; May 4, 11, 25 (and June 8 if needed or desired)

7:00-8:15 Via Zoom

During these weeks, we will examine the complex, multidimensional, inspiring, humorous and tragic lives of several of the women presented in the Hebrew Scriptures. From flawed heroes like Ruth and Rahab, to warriors like Deborah and Jael,

we will discuss what these foremothers of our spiritual tradition have to say to us in our time and place.

Each session will be sufficiently independent of the others that you need not be concerned with having to attend all of them in order to participate.

- **The Still Speaking Seminar**

Mondays, first and third of each month from 7:30 to 9 pm via Zoom.

Its purpose is to look at a variety of modern intellectuals' thinking on issues of faith, morals and justice as they relate to our spiritual tradition. Topics rotate in response to the interests of the group. In recent weeks we have spent time with topics such as the historicity of the Resurrection and nature of atonement; Harvard Philosophy Professor Michael Sandel's exploration of the ethics of meritocracy; twentieth century Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr's work on social ethics in relation to economic inequality and warfare; Catholic Social Teaching and Christian Democracy movement; Pope Francis' recent encyclicals on the environment and immigration: ***The Fourth Turning*** by demographers William Strauss and Neil Howe; and spiritual experiences in eastern traditions.

The name ***Still Speaking Seminar*** is a play on the UCC's slogan "God is Still Speaking" and is intended to highlight our view that faith is constantly renewing itself and presenting fresh insights in the present moment. We will continue to use our format of a video exploration of some aspect of modern thought from an authoritative source, followed by discussion. No preparation is required; additional background material will be available for those interested in deeper explorations of the ideas under consideration.

The group is coordinated by Richard Smith and Steve Carhart. If you are not already on our email list and would like to receive regular notifications of topics and Zoom invitations, contact us at 978-590-7497 (Dick) or 978-407-8454 (Steve).

# This Is a Day of New Beginnings

2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -  
2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y  
3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the  
4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and  
\* In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is  
Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of  
past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and  
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -  
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.  
gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

\*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion