



**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
Sunday, July 18, 2021
9:00 am**

Prelude *"Prelude and Fugue in C# Minor"* Bach

Welcome

Hymn *"Arise Your Light Is Come"*
(insert)

Opening Prayer

Holy One, we come before You this morning grateful for another day.

Lead our thoughts, words and works today. Help us put aside our fears and anxieties, or at least let You help us through them. Open our hearts and spirits to Your presence. Inspire us to serve Your purposes with patient persistence.

Increase our trust in Your promises today. Forgive our failings, and keep us from the complacency and apathy of spiritual slumber. This and every day, give us the strength, courage and commitment we need to honor and enlarge the divine spark You have blessed us with.

We pray this and all things in the name of the One You sent to show us and teach us what that divine spark can do in our lives and in the world – our brother, teacher and leader, Jesus – the One who gave us the words we say to You now...

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

"Spanish Dance #5"
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Granados

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent Prayer and Music Meditation

"Bacarolle"
(from *"The Tales of Hoffman"*)
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Offenbach

Morning Prayer

Solo

"The Lost Chord"
Paul Knox, soloist

Sullivan

Seated one day at the keyboard I was weary and ill at ease,
And my fingers wandered idly over the noisy keys;
I know not what I was playing, or what I was dreaming then;
But I struck one chord of music, like the sound of a great Amen,
Like the sound of a great Amen.

It flooded the crimson twilight, like the close of an Angel's Psalm,
And it lay on my fevered spirit, with a touch of infinite calm.
It quieted pain and sorrow, like love overcoming strife.
It seemed the harmonious echo, from our discordant life.

It linked all perplexed meanings into one perfect peace,
And trembled away into silence, as if it were loath to cease.
I have sought, but I seek it vainly, that one lost chord divine,
Which came from the soul of the keyboard and entered into mine.

It may be that Death's bright Angel will speak in that chord again;
It may be that only in Heav'n, I shall hear that grand Amen.

The Gospels Matthew 14:22-31
(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Message

Closing Hymn *“Be Now My Vision”*
(insert)

Blessing

Song *“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.

- **TODAY:** New or fairly new to First Parish Church? Come to our question-and-answer session...
When: **Today**, Sunday, July 18 after Worship (approximately 10:15 am)
Where: Front area of the Church
Who: Rev. Mark, the Vitality Team and anyone who wants to get to know us better.

In the Fall there will be a New Member Sunday for anyone interested.

- We encourage all members and friends of First Parish watching elsewhere 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.
- **Next Sunday, July 25**, we welcome Rev. Rick Spalding as our guest Worship Leader and Preacher. Rev. Spalding has led Worship for us in the past, so we are grateful to welcome him back.
- **Sunday Morning Regathering Update:**

We no longer require masks or social distancing for those fully vaccinated. Those who wish, of course, are fully welcome and encouraged to continue to mask and distance according to their comfort level. In addition:

- Contact info for attendees will still be taken in the event contact tracing becomes necessary
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex should you wish to use it
- There will continue to 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 Communion Sundays until Fall, the Deacons have obtained individual Communion packets which will be available as you enter the Sanctuary.

At the same time, remember that **“Virtual Worship” is also here to stay** so that we can continue to be one in Worship wherever you may be on any Sunday.

- “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
- Book Group will not meet in July. We meet August 30 at 6:30 PM at Wendy Hiller Clark’s home to discuss “The Book of Longings” by Sue Monk Kidd and on September 27 at 6:30 PM at Susan Harrington’s home, to discuss “The Four Winds” by Kristin Hannah. More information will follow, enjoy your Summer Reading!

- **Spiritual Exploration**

Our most recent unit, “*Widows to Warriors*”, is now complete. Enormous thanks to the many who participated in all our units this past program year (6 in all). ***Spiritual Exploration* units will return in late September/early October in hybrid form, with all having the option to participate either in person or through Zoom.**

- 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

- **Art Show** Art will be displayed and judged from July 26- August 8. First and Second place winners will be announced between July 26-30 and awarded prizes in the following age range categories: For questions or more information, contact Jeanne @jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.