

**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
Outreach and Service Sunday
Stewardship Reflection
Sunday, November 14, 2021
10:00 am

Prelude *“La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin”* Debussy

Welcome

Opening Hymn *“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”*
(printed in back of bulletin)

Opening Litany

Leader: We have all been created in God’s image and likeness;

People: Given a light by God that we are called to shine into others’ lives.

Leader: As equally loved and valued daughters and sons of God;

People: Let us accept and embrace that truth in ourselves and
others.

Leader: And from that truth, let us reach out to the vulnerable and the
forgotten;

People: Let us be points of contact for God’s compassion and care.

Leader: In their times of physical, emotional and spiritual struggle;

All: Let us help restore and maintain the dignity of all God’s people.

A Word From “Action, Inc.”

Erin George

Solo

“My Soul is Full of Joy (Song of Hannah)”

Lovelace

Paul Knox, soloist

My soul is filled with joy in God my Savior, for He has lifted me and set me high. There is no Holy One, no Rock like our God; He answered my request, He heard my cry.

All those who talk with pride now seek who God is: He weighs our deeds and knows our every word. Proud ones are humbled, but the poor are lifted; all might and power belong to God the Lord.

The strong have fallen, but the weak are strengthened; those who are hungry have enough to spare. She who was barren sees her children’s children; are things are in the Lords controlling care.

The Lord has set the earth on sure foundations, help for His saints is found in God alone. Those who oppose the Lord will fall in judgment, but He will strengthen His anointed one.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer with The Lord’s Prayer

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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Music Meditation

“Mondnacht (Moonlit Night)”

Schumann

from “Liederkreis, op.39”

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Sung in German. translation: It was as though Heaven had softly kissed the Earth, so that she in a gleam of blossom had only to dream of him. The breeze passed through the fields, the corn swayed gently to and fro, the forests murmured softly, the night was so clear with stars. And my soul spread her wings out wide, flew across the silent land, as though flying home.

The Gospels

Matthew 20:20-28

(New International Version Bible Translation)

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ²¹ “What is it you want?” he asked.

She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”

²² “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered. ²³ Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Choir Anthem

“How Firm a Foundation”

Wilberg

How Firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent word. What more can He say than to you He hath said, who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

In ev’ry condition, in sickness, in health, in poverty’s vale or abounding in wealth, at home or abroad, on the land or the sea, as thy days may demand, so Thy succor shall be.

Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed, for I am they God and will still give thee aid. I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

The soul that on Jehovah hath leaned for repose I will not, I cannot, desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never forsake! Amen!

A Word From "LifeBridge/Grace Center"

Carolyn Steward

Closing Hymn *"Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed"*
(printed in back of bulletin)

Blessing

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

- TODAY, the Board of Outreach and Service is sponsoring a special *"Outreach and Service Sunday"*. Representatives of three of the service efforts First Parish supports are on hand to speak to us about what they do and how our support has helped make their efforts possible. These presentations, interspersed throughout our Worship time, will take the place of this morning's Message.
- The Stewardship Committee has provided today's flowers in celebration of everyone's generosity to our Annual Fund Drive, to be officially celebrated **next Sunday, November 21 on "Thanksgiving and Pledge Sunday"**.
- Please note that, after discussion with the Stewardship Community, **"Pledge Sunday" will take place next Sunday, November 21 rather than today as originally scheduled.** As this is already our **"Thanksgiving Sunday"** celebration, we felt it was deeply appropriate and faithful to celebrate "Pledge Sunday" – a day when we offer our financial promises to God and each other as an expression of gratitude for all our blessings – on that same Sunday. In keeping with that line of thought, after discussion with the Deacons, we will also share in our November Sacrament of Communion next Sunday as well.

- Spiritual Growth and Exploration

Thursday Bible Study will meet this Thursday, November 18 at 4pm via Zoom:

Our second November **Prayer and Meditation** session will take place this Wednesday, November 17, at 7pm via Zoom.

Our current **Spiritual Exploration Unit** concludes **this Thursday!**

“Shepherd, Soldier, Sinner, Sovereign: The Life of David”

Thursday: November 18 *(please note Thursday rather than Tuesday date)

7:00-8:15pm via Zoom

Few figures from the Bible have been larger than David. His epic rise from shepherd boy, to mighty warrior, to beloved and beleaguered king, as well as his tragic flaws, make him one of the Bible’s most compelling characters.

Throughout this unit, we are looking at some of the major episodes from David’s story arc, reflecting on the questions and timeless spiritual insights they raise for us in areas such as our relationships with God and others, the use of power, and personal ambition.

You will continue to receive details on times and how to participate in all our offerings from the Church Office either on the day of or day before each gathering.

- “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.

- **Sunday Morning Gathering Procedures:**

The Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea instituted an indoor mask policy effective September 1. Until such time as that is lifted:

- Attendees are expected to wear masks and distance if possible.
- Worship Leaders will not need to be masked.
- The congregation may participate in hymn singing and the Opening Prayer.
- In addition, we will continue with the following:
 - 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 for now, 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.
- 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.
- 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%2Fwww.paypal.com%2Fme%2FPP-305123263856069)
- 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>.

- The Outreach and Service collection continues for The Open Door and Grace Center. Bring items to the Chapel or Church. There is a box outside by the Church Office at the Chapel:

Baking Mixes - Cake, Brownie, Cookie, Muffin, Pancake

Peanut Butter

Canned Tuna, Chicken, and Turkey

Healthy Snack Items

100% Juice/Juice Boxes

Breakfast Cereal

Hearty Soups

Canned Vegetables and Fruits

Spaghetti Sauce, Macaroni and Cheese

Rice, Noodles, Pasta

Gift Cards from local grocery markets so they can purchase butter, cream and other perishables.

- **Book group is open to everyone!** Consider joining us. It is open to anyone, and we are now meeting again in person on the last Monday of the month.

We will next meet on November 29 at Meredith Tuft's home to discuss "The Orphan Collector" by Ellen Marie Wiseman.

In the fall of 1918, thirteen-year-old German immigrant Pia Lange longs to be far from Philadelphia's overcrowded slums and the anti-immigrant sentiment that compelled her father to enlist in the U.S. Army. But as her city celebrates the end of war, an even more urgent threat arrives: the Spanish flu.

Funeral crepe and quarantine signs appear on doors as victims drop dead in the streets and desperate survivors wear white masks to ward off illness. When food runs out in the cramped tenement she calls home, Pia must venture alone into the quarantined city in search of supplies, leaving her baby brothers behind. Goodreads

Looking ahead to December the book discussed will be “Mr. Dickens and His Carol” by Samantha Silva along with a potluck dinner and a Yankee Swap of a used book. We will meet on December 13 at 6:30 PM, location TBA.

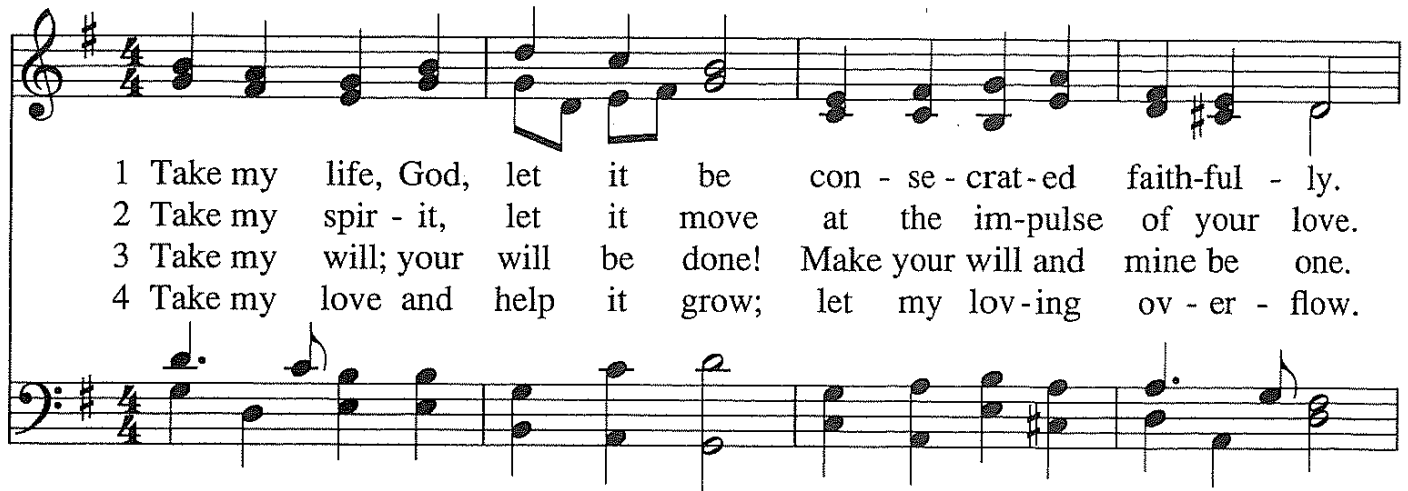
This is a time for church members as well as non-church friends to come together and engage with one another, build relationships, and share in a discussion of books that are of interest to people of various backgrounds. We have fun visiting, conversing about the book and sharing stories and would love to have you join us!

Questions? Please call Mary Ellen Cook 978-500-0018.

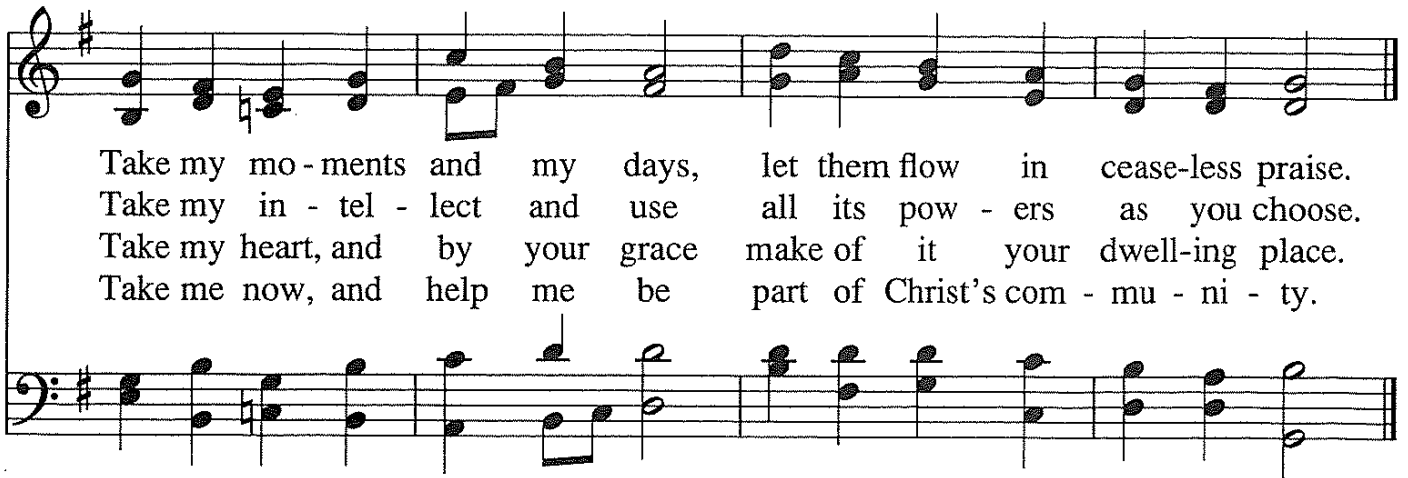
Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1



1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.

1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your
2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can
3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's
4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that

prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the
help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing
wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble
doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of

true, raise your work and life a - new.
light, strength - en them to do the right.
zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.
fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the *Pilgrim Hymnal* (1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.
The Parish Choir, 1850