



**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  
First Sunday in Lent  
*“These Forty Days”*  
The Sacrament of Communion  
Sunday, March 6, 2022  
10:00 am

Prelude                      *“Impromptu in G flat, op.90, #3”*                      Schubert

Welcome

Opening Hymn      *“Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days”*  
(printed in Bulletin)

**Opening Prayer (together)**

Holy One, You sent Jesus to teach and show us the way to You and the life You created us to have. Lead our minds, hearts and spirits to follow him there.

Help us to keep going when there are no clear signs to guide or inspire us along the way. Help us to keep going when the gain is unseen or uncertain.

Help us to go and keep going, O God, through this season of Lent and beyond. Because in our going, You promise we will receive spiritual strength, resilience and wisdom.

And so together, we say to You now the words that Jesus – the One who calls us to go with him – gave us...

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.

**Choir Anthem***“Amazing Grace”*

trad., arr. Lojeski

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart, my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious, precious grace that grace did appear the hour I first believed!

Thru many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

Amazing grace, amazing grace, bright shining as the sun. We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

**Prayer Intentions****Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer****Music Meditation***“The Lost Chord”*

Sir Arthur Sullivan

Paul Knox, soloist

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 Hebrew Scriptures      Deuteronomy 26:1-10      Mark Heslop**  
**(New International Version Bible Translation)**

<sup>1</sup> When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, <sup>2</sup> take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name <sup>3</sup> and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup> The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. <sup>6</sup> But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. <sup>7</sup> Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression.

<sup>8</sup> So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. <sup>9</sup> He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; <sup>10</sup> and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him.

**The Gospels      Luke 4:1-13**  
**(New International Version Bible Translation)**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

<sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup>The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. <sup>7</sup>If you worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

<sup>9</sup>The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup>For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you carefully;  
<sup>11</sup>they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”  
When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

<sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

## Message

Solo

*“Take Me to the King”*  
Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Franklin

Take me to the King. I don't have much to bring. My heart is torn in pieces; it's my offering. Take me to the King.

Truth is, I'm tired, options are few. I'm trying to pray, but where are You? I'm all churched out, hurt and abused. I can't fake what's left to do. Truth is, I'm weak, no strength to fight. No tears to cry even if I tried. But still, my soul refuses to die. One touch will change my life.



- We are celebrating in person and “Virtual Communion” this Sunday. If you are joining us from home 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.
- The flowers on the altar are given with prayers for the people of Ukraine.
- **NEW Sunday Morning Gathering Protocols:**  
Now that both the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea and the State of Massachusetts have lifted mask mandates, our Church Council determined this week that:
  - Attendees are no longer required to wear masks in the Sanctuary. You are, of course, fully welcome to continue to mask if you wish.
  - We will no longer continue obtaining contact info for attendees for the purpose of contact tracing.
  - Hand sanitizer will still be available in the Narthex should you wish to use it.
  - There will continue to be no formal Offering. 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.
  - **“Coffee Hour Fellowship” has returned, join us following worship!** Please plan to stay in the Sanctuary immediately after Worship to participate.
  - 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
  - Click to read The Church Bell Newsletter of First Parish Church Congregational for March 2022.

- Our theme throughout Lent this year is *“These 40 Days”*. Over the course of most of the Sundays of Lent, we will explore important passages from the Bible that feature the number “40” – the official number of days in that sacred season.
- In addition, on Sunday, March 6, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion together as a spiritual community, and on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, our own Rev. Dr. Lelley Smith will serve as Worship Leader and Preacher.
- *Bible Study* will be held on the following dates in March at 4pm on Zoom: Thursday, March 3, 10, 24 and March 31. There will be **no Bible Study on March 17**.
- *Prayer and Meditation*, will move from Wednesdays to Thursdays beginning in March. It will be offered on Zoom in March only once - at 7pm on Thursday, March 24.
- Our current *Spiritual Exploration* unit, *“What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be Christian?”* **concludes this coming Thursday, March 10 (please note date change)** from 7:00-8:30pm on Zoom.

Based on the book of the same name by long-time minister and author Martin Thielen, this five-week unit is exploring “what really matters” when it comes to our beliefs about God, Jesus, the Bible and the Church. We are examining what Thielen identifies as the things we both need and don’t need to believe from our tradition, as well as additional beliefs and topics of concern to participants.

- Our next *“Spiritual Exploration”* unit is Lent-focused, and begins the latter part of March:

*“The Usual Suspects”*

Tuesdays: March 22 and 29; April 5 and 12, 7:00-8:30pm on Zoom

During this four-week unit we will examine the lives and actions of some of the characters the Gospels identify as playing important roles in the death of Jesus, such as Judas, the religious leaders in Jerusalem, Herod and Pilate.



We will also explore how those actions, as a function of timeless human failings, emotions, and the context of time and place, might speak to us in our time and place.

- As always, you will continue to receive reminders and details on dates, times, and how to participate in all our offerings from the Church Office either on the day of or day before each gathering.
- 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)
- Stewardship - Many of you do not use the pledge offering envelopes anymore; but look in the Narthex to see if your name is on a box. If you don't need them, please let Mary Ellen know she can take you off of the boxed envelope list.
- 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  
Pet Food

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

- From the Open Door and the Outreach and Service Committee  
Volunteers needed Fridays  
Fulfillment Center, 11-1pm  
Fulfillment Center, 1-3pm  
Pick-Up Assistant, 3-5pm  
No Contact Deliveries, 3-5pm

Visit VolunteerHub to claim your spot now:  
<http://foodpantry.volunteerhub.com/>

- **Book Group** is open to everyone! Consider joining us. Questions can be directed to Mary Ellen Cook at 978-500-0018.

We next meet **Monday, March 28 at 6:30 PM** at Nancy Peterson's home 111 Chebacco Road, South Hamilton. The book for discussion is "Traveling with Pomegranates" by Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Kidd Taylor.

In April, we meet on **Monday, April 25** at 6:30 at Mary Ellen's home 23 Harold Street to discuss. "The Henna Artist" by Aika Joshi.

- Readers and Greeters are always needed, learn more or volunteer by speaking to the Deacons or you can also [sign up online](#).
- The Diaconate invites you to participate in the Compassion International Mission, you can sign up for one month of support for \$38, speak to Sue Parker or click [here](#) or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-compassion>. Checks for that amount should be written to First Parish Church and sent to P.O. Box 187, Manchester, MA 01944.

# Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

*Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.*

*Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13*



1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,  
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,  
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,  
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,



Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.  
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.  
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.  
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.



*Unflagging in her zeal for religious education of children, Claudia F. I. Hernaman wrote some 150 hymns. This one appeared in her Child's Book of Praise (1873).*

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.  
*Day's The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562*

# O Jesus, I Have Promised

John E. Bode, 1868; alt.

Luke 9:57; John 14:1-4

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,  
3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my Sav - ior and my Friend:  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will!  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be, too;

I shall not fear life's strug - gles if you are by my side,  
O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol!  
And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
O speak, and make me lis - ten, O guar - dian of my soul!  
O give me grace to fol - low my Sav - ior and my Friend!

John Ernest Bode wrote these words when his daughter and two sons were confirmed. Although the Oxford scholar and rector wrote books of hymns, this is the only one to achieve lasting fame.

Tune: ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6.D.  
A. H. Mann, 1883  
Alternate tune: MUNICH