



**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
Third Sunday in Lent
“These Forty Days”
Sunday, March 20, 2022
10:00 am

Prelude *“When Peace Like a River”*
Bliss, arr. Sullivan Robbins

Welcome

Opening Hymn *“O Word of God Incarnate”*
(printed in Bulletin)

Opening Prayer (together)

O God, our Creator,
we have gathered in Your holy presence.
You set before us the ways of life and death.
We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ
who calls us to know the cost of discipleship,
that we may know its joy.
We have gathered in the presence of the Holy Spirit,
who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.
As we walk through the forty days of Lent
we reflect and recommit ourselves to follow
the way, truth and light of Christ.
We are refreshed and encouraged by the grace of
your forgiving mercy as we go forward.
Still we suffer with those who suffer
and pray with those who pray for peace
and for a world that shares an amazing planet
with many challenges and many opportunities.
Bless Your church universal with its
heavenly hopes and bountiful Holy Spirit.

We pray in Christ's name who taught us to pray:

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

“Hem of Your Robe”

Pepper Choplin

When our worship moves higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. When our worship moves higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. For all heaven's praise and all heaven's songs make all our humble worship seem lowly. For our highest praise and our highest songs are just a tiny glimpse of Your glory and Your pow'r. When we're bowing lower, let us touch the hem of Your robe. When we're bowing lower, let us touch the hem of Your robe. For all heaven's praise and all heaven's songs make all our humble worship seem lowly. For our highest praise and our highest songs are just a tiny glimpse of Your glory and Your pow'r. Lord, You lift us higher; Lord, You lift us higher; Lord, You lift us higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. Lord, You lift us higher; Lord, You lift us higher; Lord, You lift us higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Dorsey, arr. Edstrom

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 55

Diane Houghton

(New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Gospels **John 14:1, 27**
(New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)

¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Sermon *“The Hospitality of the Church”*
Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith

Solo *“The Power of Your Love”* Bullock, arr. Larson
Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Lord, I come to You; let my heart be changed, renewed, flowing from the grace that I've found in You. And Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me will be stripped away by the power of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me. Bring me near, draw me to Your side. As I walk, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You; Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

Lord, unveil my eyes; let me see You face to face, the knowledge of Your love as You live in me. Lord, renew my mind as Your will unfolds in my life, in living every day by the power of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me. Bring me near, draw me to Your side. As I walk, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You; Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

Closing Hymn *"There's a Sweet Sweet Spirit in this Place"*
(printed in Bulletin)

Blessing

Closing Song *"Go Out With Joy"* text: Isaiah 55:12
Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace. Go out with joy.

- Our Deacon is Paul Gudonis.
- Our Worship this morning is led by Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith, retired pastor of Mass. U.C.C. congregations in East Milton and West Gloucester.

In the wider church, she taught Field Education at Yale Divinity School and Andover Newton Theological School and led the area Peer Pastoral Support Committee. Lelly Smith has been active in our congregation, singing in the Choir, and chairing and serving on our Education, Nominating, Mission and Executive Committees. She and her husband George have three children: Singer/Drama Educator, Putnam Smith, Dr. Sarah Gerritz and Rev. Abigail Smith. They have six grandchildren ages from infant to graduate school.

- **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 has determined 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 immediately following Worship!** Please plan to stay in the Sanctuary 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.
- Readers and Greeters are always needed, to volunteer speak to the Deacons, or you can also sign up [online](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-diaconate).
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-diaconate>
- Listening devices are available for those in need; they are at the back of the Sanctuary. Feel free to address a Deacon should you need help.
- Welcome to all who are new to our Worship. To join our mailing list please fill out a “Welcome Card” to place in the collection plate or contact office.fpchurch@gmail.com , 978-526-7661 ext 1.
- 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.
- ***Bible Study*** will be held on the following dates in March at 4pm on Zoom **this coming Thursday, March 24.**

- *Prayer and Meditation* will move from Wednesdays to Thursdays beginning this week. It will be offered in March only once – this coming **Thursday, March 24, at 7pm on Zoom.**
- Our next *“Spiritual Exploration”* unit is Lent-focused, and **begins this Tuesday:**

“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

- 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! 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.

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

2 Cor. 3:17-5:5

Doris Akers, 1962; alt.

Slowly

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know that Spir - it's full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

to Refrain

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to stay with Je - sus all the way."

This is one of the most popular gospel songs from the corpus of African-American songwriters who emerged during the golden age of gospel (1930-1969). Although this era was dominated by the Baptists, Doris Akers had Methodist roots.

Tune: SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
9.11.9.11. with refrain
Doris Akers, 1962

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill-ing us with your love; And for these bless-ings we

lift our hearts in praise. With-out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

O Word of God Incarnate

Ps. 119:105

William W. How, 1867; alt.

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 O God, we hold this trea - sure from you, its source di - vine,
3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of cloud - ed sky:
a light that to all a - ges through - out the earth will shine;
to bear be - fore all peo - ple your true light as of old!

We praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that all life's voy - age through,
O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
'mid mists and rocks and tem - pest, still guides, O God, to you.
till, doubt and striv - ing end - ed, they meet you face to face.

William W. How, author and hymnwriter, is remembered especially for his work among the poor of London's East End. Felix Mendelssohn harmonized this German hymn tune, which appeared with a different text for his oratorio Elijah.

Tune: MUNICH 7.6.7.6.D.
Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693
Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847