



**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
Fourth Sunday in Lent
"These Forty Days"
Sunday, March 27, 2022
10:00 am

Prelude *"Whispering Hope"* Winner, arr. Cook

Welcome

Opening Hymn *"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"*
(printed in Bulletin)

Opening Prayer (together)

Holy One, we continue our journey with Jesus and each other through this sacred season of Lent. We continue to examine our lives for the ways in which we have wandered from the path Jesus calls us to.

Forgive us for the times when we have not made the most of the divine spark you have placed in each of us and that Jesus calls us to honor. Forgive us for the times when we have not seen, or refused to see, that divine spark in others.

Help us, in this season and all seasons, to be more faithful to that spark and to You - more compassionate, just and merciful.

And together, let us say to You now the words that Jesus – the One who calls us to Your divine path – 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*“My Song Is Love Unknown”*

Childs

My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me; love to the loveless shown,
that they may lovely be. Who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
flesh and die?

Sometimes they strew His way, and His sweet praises sing; resounding all the
day Hosannas to their King: then “Crucify!” is all their breath, and for His death
they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done to cause this rage and spite? He made the lame
to run, He gave the blind their sight, sweet injuries! Yet they at these are why
the Lord most high so cruelly dies.

Here might I stay and sing, of Him my soul adores; never was love, dear King!
Never was grief like yours. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my
days could gladly spend.

Prayer Intentions**Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer****Music Meditation***“At Saint Patrick’s Purgatory”
(from “Hermit Songs”)*

Barber

Paul Knox, soloist

Pity me on my pilgrimage to Loch Derg! O King of the churches and the bells
bemoaning your sores and your wounds, but not a tear can I squeeze from my
eyes! Nor moisten an eye after so much sin!

Pity me, O King! What shall I do with a heart that seeks only its own ease? O
only begotten Son by whom all men were made, who shunned not the death by
three wounds, pity me on my pilgrimage to Loch Derg; and I with a heart not
softer than a stone!

²⁷ The LORD said to Moses: Write these words; in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel. ²⁸ He was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

Message

Solo

"El Shaddai"

Card, Thompson

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Eil-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, we will praise and lift you high, El Shaddai.

Through your love and through the ram, You saved the son of Abraham;
through the power of your hand, turned the sea into dry land.
To the outcast on her knees, You were the God who really sees, and by your
might, You set your children free.

El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, we will praise and lift you high, El Shaddai.

Through the years you've made it clear, that the time of Christ was near,
Though the people couldn't see what Messiah ought to be. Though your word
contained the plan, they just could not understand Your most awesome work
was done through the frailty of your Son.

El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, I will praise you 'till I die, El Shaddai. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, I will praise you 'till I die. El Shaddai.

Closing Hymn

"Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way"

(printed in Bulletin)

Blessing

Closing Song

"I'll Walk With God"
Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Brodsky

I'll walk with God from this day on, His helping hand, I'll lean upon.

This is my prayer, my humble plea; may the Lord be ever with me.

There is no death though eyes grow dim, there is no fear when I'm near to Him.
I'll lean on Him forever and He'll forsake me never. He will not fail me as long
as my faith is strong; whatever road I may walk alone.

I'll walk with God, I'll take His hand, I'll talk with God, He'll understand. I'll
pray to Him, each day to Him and He'll hear the words that I say. His hand will
guide my throne and rod and I'll never walk alone, while I walk with God!

- Today's Greeters are Paul and Wendy Clark.
- Our Deacons are Mark and Ann Heslop.
- **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>
- 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.
- Our current “*Spiritual Exploration*” unit is Lent-focused:

“The Usual Suspects”

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

During this unit we are examining 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 are also exploring 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 – Though many of us do not use the pledge offering envelopes anymore, please look in the Narthex to see if your name is on a box. If you don't need them, please let Mary Ellen know and she will 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 **tomorrow evening, 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.

Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist—and confidante—to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own...

Known for her original designs and sage advice, Lakshmi must tread carefully to avoid the jealous gossips who could ruin her reputation and her livelihood. As she pursues her dream of an independent life, she is startled one day when she is confronted by her husband, who has tracked her down these many years later with a high-spirited young girl in tow—a sister Lakshmi never knew she had. goodreads

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

In his commentary on the text, hymnwriter Carl P. Daw, Jr., describes the "implicit comparison between the attitudes and assumptions of the disciples on the Mount of the Transfiguration and the expectations of present-day Christians as they gather for worship."

Tune: HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
Rowland H. Prichard, 1844
Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way

William Matson, 1866; alt.

1 Teach me, O Lord, your ho - ly way,
2 Help me, O Sav - ior, here to trace
3 Guard me, O Christ, that I may ne'er
4 Bless me in ev - ery task I face,

and give me an o - be - dient mind,
the sa - cred foot - steps you have trod;
for - sake the right, or do the wrong;
be - gun, con - tin - ued, done for you;

That in your ser - vice I may find
and ful - ly trust - ing in my God,
A - gainst temp - ta - tion make me strong,
Ful - fill your will in all I do,

my heart's de - light from day to day.
to grow in good - ness, truth, and grace.
and keep me in your shel - tering care.
and grant me your a - bun - dant grace.

William Matson, English poet and Congregational minister,
wrote a poem of 321 four-line stanzas titled "The Inner Life"
(1866). This hymn of obedience to Christ has been drawn from

Tune: ROCKINGHAM L.M.
Anon.
Adapt. Edward Miller, 1790

- Please put this exciting event on your calendar - First Parish will be presenting **“Once Upon a Tree”**, a cantata with words and music by Pepper Choplin, **as part of the 10 AM worship service Palm Sunday, April 10.**

The cantata tells the story of Jesus’s final entrance into Jerusalem and portrays the passion story through His crucifixion to the light of His resurrection. The First Parish Choir, directed by Dr. Herman Weiss, will sing with narration by Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea and with soloists Paul Knox, Jim Brennan and Rebecca Shrimpton, who will portray the central characters from the scripture.

“Once Upon a Tree” completes the portrayal of Jesus's journey begun with “Once Upon a Night”, which the Choir sang during this past Advent.

We hope you join us in person or watch via Facebook Live at [FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/Live](https://www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/Live).