

**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
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 15, 2022
10:00 am

Prelude *“All Glory Be to God on High”* Pachelbel

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather on this day to praise our God, who is our strength.

People: We gather on this holy day to join with Jesus in relieving the burdens of others.

Leader: We gather in the sacred space, to be fed by the spirit with grace and hope.

Opening Hymn *“God Is Here! As We Your People Meet”*
(printed in bulletin)

Prayer of Confession (together)

God of mercy, on ordinary days we crush others under the weight of our unrealistic expectations. We knock down friends and neighbors in our rush to get more for ourselves. We worship strange gods - plastic cards, athletes, celebrities - as we turn away from You. We forget how You have set us free when we turn our backs on the strangers around us.

On this holy day, gracious God, we pray for Your forgiveness. When we could promote ourselves, let us instead honor those who care for us in ways we do not notice. Instead of pushing people into the shadows, may we walk with them in Your light. May we open our hands to serve others with the grace, hope, and peace poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: No longer are we held captive by our foolish choices or our damaging words. On this holy day, as well as all our days, God blesses us with hope and mercy. With every instrument possible, but especially with our hearts and lives, may we praise the One who fills us with forgiveness and grace.

People: Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Amen.

Solo

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Medema

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Refrain:

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Something's gonna happen like the world has never known, when the people of the Lord get down to pray; a door's gonna swing open, and the walls come a-tumbling down, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

Refrain

He's gonna take over, He's gonna take control, when the people of the Lord get down to pray; He's gonna move the mountain, He's gonna make the waters roll, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

Refrain

You're gonna know it when the Lord stretches out His hand, when the people of the Lord get down to pray; there's gonna be a brand new song of vict'ry in this land, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

Refrain

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Music Meditation

"The Light That is Felt"

Ives

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

A tender child of summers three, at night, while seeking her little bed,
Pause on the dark stair timidly, Oh, mother take my hand, said she,
And then the dark will be all light.

We older children grope our way from dark behind to dark before;
And only when our hands we lay in Thine, O God! The night is day,
Then the night is day, and there is darkness nevermore.

Prayer of Dedication (together)

Each of us is a fragile miracle, evidence of God's creative hands and amazing grace. We are each unique, unrepeatably gifts to the world. We are proof of God's love. And so, we who are the gifts of creation now give gifts to our Creator. Gifts brought in love. Amen.

The Psalms

Psalm 148 John Feuerbach

(New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

 praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels;

 praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
⁶ He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

The Gospels

John 13:31-35

(New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.”

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Sermon *"Finding a Purpose in Life"* **Rev. Dr. VanArsdale**

Choir Anthem *"Thou Art Worthy"* **Mills**

Thou art worthy, O Lord; to receive glory, glory and honor and power.
For Thou hast created, hast all things created; and for Thy pleasure
They are created, for Thou art worthy, O Lord.

Closing Hymn *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"* (printed in bulletin)

Blessing

Closing Song *"May the Road Rise Up to Meet You"* **Lau**

May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may
the shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. And until
we meet again, may God hold you in His hand. Amen.

- **Rev. Mark is away until Tuesday, May 24.**
- Our Worship leader today is **Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale**. Dave retired in 2013 after 41 years in ministry, which started with Ordination at Edwards UCC in Framingham and concluded with his time as Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City, AZ. Dave and his wife Ellen have become a part of South Church UCC in Andover since moving 5 ½ years ago from Arizona to the Edgewood Retirement Community in North Andover.
- Our Deacon this morning is John Feuerbach.

- *Bible Study* will next be held on **Thursday, May 26** at 4pm on Zoom: There will be no Bible Study on Thursday, May 19.
- *Prayer and Meditation* will next be offered on **Thursday, May 26** on Zoom at 7pm.
- Our current *Spiritual Exploration* unit continues:

“These Things”: Considering Your Life Testament

Tuesdays: May 24, 31; June 7 and 14 (additional weeks as needed)
7:00pm – 8:30pm on Zoom

Based on a spiritual exercise crafted by Jesuit priest and author Father Anthony de Mello, this unit will involve considering and sharing our responses and insights regarding a number of “*these things*” statements – for example: “*These things I have loved in life:*” and “*These experiences I have cherished:*” It promises to be a time of deep spiritual reflection, challenge, clarity and growth. After the first session, one or more “*these things*” prompts will be provided as “homework” in preparation for the following session.

Each session can be participated in on its own for those concerned about missing one or more evenings.

The homework prompts for the session on **Tuesday, May 24** are:

***“These Beliefs I Have Outgrown
“These Risks I Took...”***

Remember:

1. Write as many responses as you can.
2. Avoid “self-editing”
3. Let go of concerns over how “trivial” a response might be to you or others.
4. Be as detailed as possible.

- **Women's Fellowship Potluck Dinner, Monday, May 23** at 6:00 PM in the Chapel Hall. Please bring your favorite dish ready to serve. All are welcome! Hope to see you there. Questions call Mary Ellen Cook at 978-500-0018.
- 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 time. 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 May 2022.
- 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.

- Our FPCC Compassion child, Chepkirwok needs supporters for June, July and August, [sign up now](#), questions can be directed to Sue Parker, sueparker33@aol.com.
- 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
- **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/>
- **Announcing a new Outreach and Service opportunity!**
 - Each month the American Legion in Manchester collects items for *Operation Troop Support*, an organization that focuses efforts on helping our deployed troops as well as their loved ones back home. The Service & Outreach committee has agreed to help by collecting requested items.

Each month we will let you know what the items are and have a collection bin outside the Chapel Office door and in the Church for donations. This collection is in addition to the mission for The Grace Center and The Open Door (which is ongoing, see next page for those items) to give another opportunity to participate in hands on service and outreach.

The troop items requested for May are sunscreen, foot powder and deodorant; for June they are powdered drink mixes (Gatorade, iced tea, lemonade).

Book Group will next meet on Monday, May 30 at 6:30 PM at Lauren Gudonis' home, 56 Masconomo St. Manchester. We will be discussing "Wish You Were Here" by Jodi Picoult.

Diana O'Toole is perfectly on track. She will be married by thirty, done having kids by thirty-five, and move out to the New York City suburbs, all while climbing the professional ladder in the cutthroat art auction world. She's not engaged just yet, but she knows her boyfriend, Finn, a surgical resident, is about to propose on their romantic getaway to the Galápagos—days before her thirtieth birthday. Right on time.

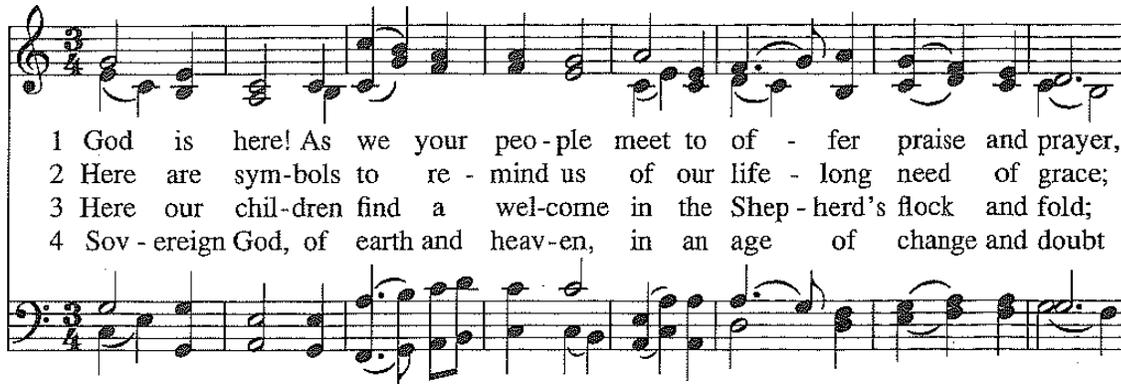
But then a virus that felt worlds away has appeared in the city, and on the eve of their departure, Finn breaks the news: It's all hands on deck at the hospital. He has to stay behind. You should still go, he assures her, since it would be a shame for all of their nonrefundable trip to go to waste. And so, reluctantly, she goes.

Almost immediately, Diana's dream vacation goes awry. The whole island is now under quarantine, and she is stranded until the borders reopen. Completely isolated, she must venture beyond her comfort zone. Slowly, she carves out a connection with a local family when a teenager with a secret opens up to Diana, despite her father's suspicion of outsiders.

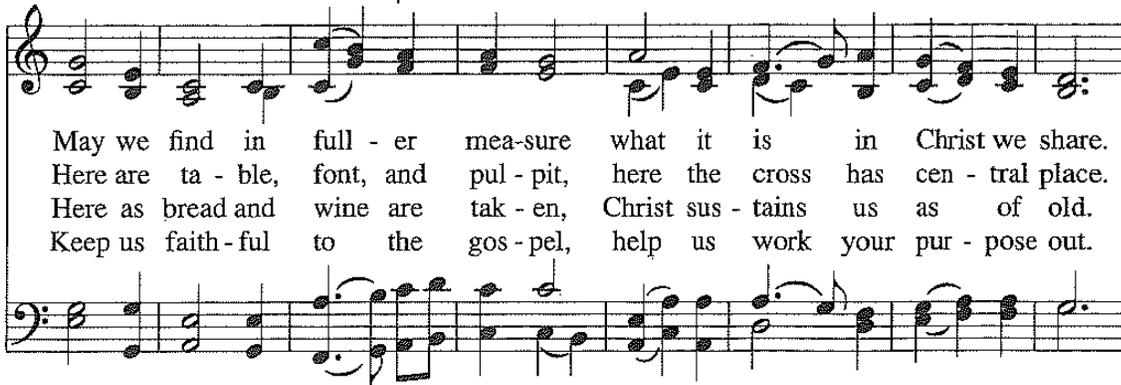
Diana finds herself examining her relationships, her choices, and herself—and wondering if when she goes home, she too will have evolved into someone completely different. goodreads

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

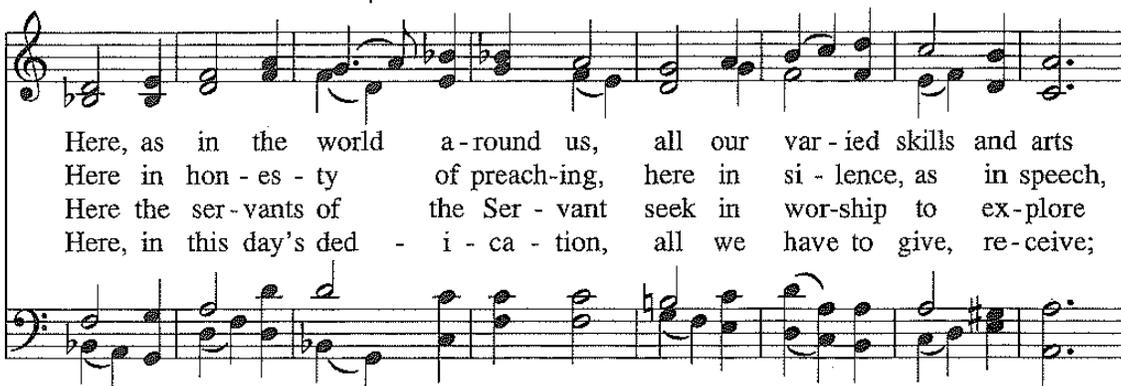
Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.



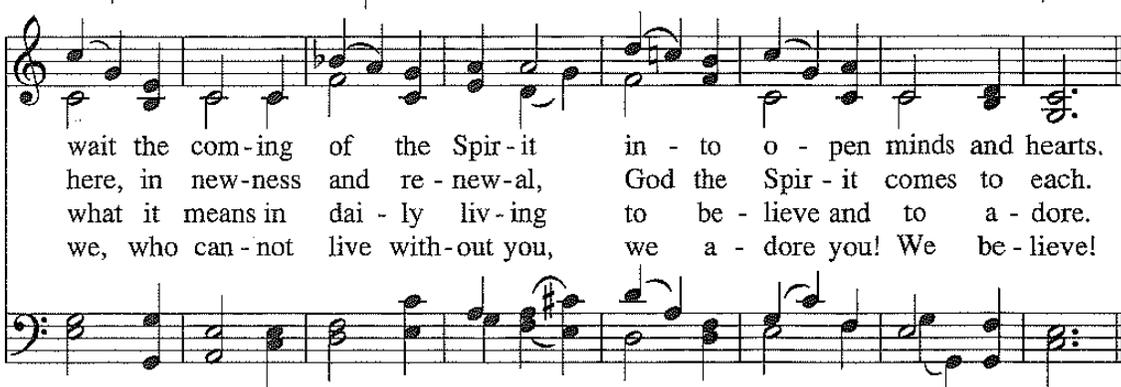
1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt



May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.
Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.
Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.



Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Though he retired in 1969, this distinguished British poet has continued to write hymns. In addition to administering several circuits and local congregations, Fred Pratt Green published plays, translations, and poems. Emory University in Atlanta awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.
Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495