

**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  
Sunday, August 28, 2022  
9:00 am

Prelude                      *“Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light”*                      J.S. Bach

Welcome

Opening Litany

**One:** Blessed is the Holy One who created us and all things;

**People:** **The One who calls us together in community.**

**One:** Blessed is the Holy One who gives us gifts and talents.

**People:** **May we use them for the good of others, seen and unseen.**

**One:** Blessed is the Holy One who stands with us in our times of need.

**People:** **May we stand with others in theirs.**

**All:** **May we be the people the Holy One believes we can be.**

Opening Hymn              *“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”*  
(printed in bulletin)

Solo                              *“The Lord Is My Light”*                              Allitsen  
Erin Merceruio Nelson, soloist

The Lord is my light, my light and my salvation. Whom, then shall I fear, whom, then, shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; the Lord is the strength of my life, of whom, then, shall I be afraid?

Though a host of men were laid against me, yet not shall my heart be afraid; and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in Him.

For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His tabernacle, yea, in the secret places of His dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

The Lord is my light, my light and my salvation. Whom, then shall I fear, whom, then, shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom, then, shall I be afraid, of whom, then shall I be afraid?

## 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**    *“Intermezzo in A, op.118, #2”*  
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Brahms

### Prayer of Dedication (together)

We thank you, Holy One, for all You have blessed us with. We thank You for all You have done and will do in our lives. May these gifts be used to help carry out Your call that all people be fed, clothed, safe and at peace. May they be used to help bring Your compassion and care to those in need, both near and far. Amen.

**The Gospels**

**Mark 8:1-13**

**Paul Driscoll**

(New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)

<sup>1</sup>In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, <sup>2</sup>'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup>If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way—and some of them have come from a great distance.'

<sup>4</sup> His disciples replied, ‘How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?’ <sup>5</sup> He asked them, ‘How many loaves do you have?’ They said, ‘Seven.’ <sup>6</sup> Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. <sup>7</sup> They had also a few small fish; and after blessing them, he ordered that these too should be distributed. <sup>8</sup> They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

<sup>9</sup> Now there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. <sup>10</sup> And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

<sup>11</sup> The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. <sup>12</sup> And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, ‘Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.’ <sup>13</sup> And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side.

## Message

Solo

*“How Great Thou Art”*  
Erin Merceruio, soloist

Hine, arr. Courtney

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art.

And when I think of God, His Son not sparing sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou Art!

Then sings my soul....

### **A Liturgy of Farewell and Release for Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea**

**Rev. Holly Bruner, Moderator of the Northeast Association, Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ:**

Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness and the sovereign of the rulers on earth.

The Northeast Association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

On September 22, 2019, The First Parish Church, Congregational, called The Reverend Dr. Mark Boyea to serve as your settled pastor and teacher.

**Rev. Dr. Boyea:**

I thank The First Parish Church, Congregational, its members and friends, for the love and kindness, and support shown me during our time together. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership was accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**Congregation in Unison:**

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept your passage. We express our gratitude for your ministry among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence upon our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

**Rev. Dr. Boyea:**

I accept your gratitude, offer forgiveness and trust that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

**Rev. Brunner:**

Do you, release Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea from his duties as Pastor? Do you offer your encouragement as his journey unfolds in new ways?

**Congregation in Unison:**

We do with the help of God.

**Rev. Brunner:**

Do you, Rev. Dr Boyea, release this local congregation from turning to you and depending on you? Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and for the relationship with another who will come to serve?

**Rev. Dr. Boyea:**

I do with the help of God.

**Rev. Brunner:**

On behalf of the Southern New England Conference of The United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: thankfulness, generosity, and release. The Members of the Northeast Association and the Southern New England Conference hold each of you in our prayers. We pledge our support in the transition signified in this service.

**Rev. Brunner:**

Let us pray. O God, we give thanks for remembered times, when we, together, have shared this life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea in worship, in prayer, and in presence. We pray that he will always be aware of your Spirit's guidance in his life and ministry. Help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**A Word From Moderator Bethany Woods**

**Closing Hymn**

*"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"*

(printed in bulletin)

**Blessing**

God be with you ‘till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you, with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you ‘till we meet again.

- **All are invited and welcome to stay immediately after the conclusion of our Worship time for a celebration of Mark’s ministry with us, and to say goodbye to him, Cindy and Kelsey.**
- Erin Merceruio Nelson  
Hailed as “secure and sonorous” with a “bright, flexible voice” (Boston Musical Intelligencer), soprano Erin Merceruio Nelson is quickly becoming known for her signature blend of impeccable musicianship and strong dramatic instincts across a broad range of challenging repertoire.

An avid performer of new and contemporary music, Erin’s 2021 - 2022 season performances include creating the role of The Nymph in the world premiere of *NIGHTTOWN* by Benjamin P. Wenzelberg with [Lowell House Opera](#) at Harvard University and creating the role of The Mother-In-Law in Byron Asher’s new opera *The Bedbug* with [Promenade Opera Project](#).

In past seasons, Erin has premiered the chamber work *Tide Flowers* by composer Geoffrey Gibbs at the [University of Rhode Island](#) as the soprano soloist, appeared as Bea in Jake Heggie’s *Three Decembers* with TBD Opera Project under the direction of Sharon Daniels, performed the role of Margaret in *The Clever Artifice of Harriet and Margaret* by Leanna Kirchoff with [Opera del West](#), and sang Beth March in Mark Adamo’s *Little Women* with Boston Opera Collaborative. Other recent performances include Lady Clarence in [Odyssey Opera's](#) concert production of Saint-Saëns’ *Henry VIII*, First Lady and Papagena in *The Magic Flute* with the [Nahant Music Festival](#). Erin was also featured in [Odyssey Opera’s](#) production of Strauss’ *Die ägyptische Helena* and covered the role of Cunégonde in [Opera del West’s](#) production of Bernstein’s *Candide*. Throughout the pandemic, Erin took part in several outdoor concerts with NEMPAC and Opera on Tap Boston.

Also recently, Erin was thrilled to be named a Finalist in the [Vermont Vocal Competition](#) in Brandon, VT. [www.erinmerceruionelson.com](http://www.erinmerceruionelson.com).

- Our Deacon this morning is Barbara Smith.
- **Thank You Get Together**  
Stewardship is inviting everyone to a thank you get together at Tuck's Point, Sunday, September 11. We want to thank all who supported our Church with finances, donations, and time in 2022. Join us for pizza and First Parish Fizzies, 5-7 PM. We hope to see you there!
- 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](mailto: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
- Our FPCC Compassion child, Chepkirwok needs supporters for 2023, [sign up now](#), questions can be directed to Sue Parker, [sueparker33@aol.com](mailto:sueparker33@aol.com).
- [Click to read](#) The Church Bell Newsletter of First Parish Church Congregational for Summer 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.

- **Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee and Conversation**

Starting September 12<sup>th</sup> and continuing every Monday 10 AM-12:30 PM (except holidays) at the First Parish Chapel Hall located behind Santander Bank. Hospitality provided by *The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging*. Come sit down and talk!

- **Book Group TOMORROW August 29, 6:30 PM** at Wendy Hiller Clark's home, 18A Kennedy Road Magnolia. Please RSVP for planning purposes to Wendy at 978-500-9039 or [hillerclark@gmail.com](mailto:hillerclark@gmail.com)

We will be discussing “Mad About the Boy” by Helen Fielding and “West with Giraffes” by Lynda Rutledge

- **The Outreach and Service collection continues for The Open Door and The Grace Center And Operation Troop Support**

**Needed -**

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 (Shaw’s, Stop & Shop, Market Basket, etc.) so they can purchase butter, cream and other perishables

**Troop items for September -**

Instant Breakfast

Cereal & Oatmeal

Soup

Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel.

# I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

*Descant*

3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun - tains rise,  
2 I sing the good - ness of our God that filled the earth with food;  
3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.  
God formed the crea - tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.  
The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;  
Oh, how your won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye:  
All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

*The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."*

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.  
Gesangbuch der herzoglichen  
Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784  
*Descant*, The New Century Hymnal, 1993



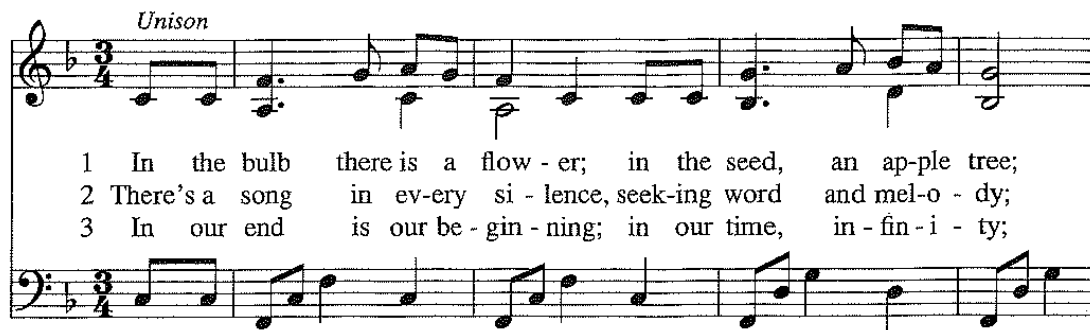
Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!  
Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

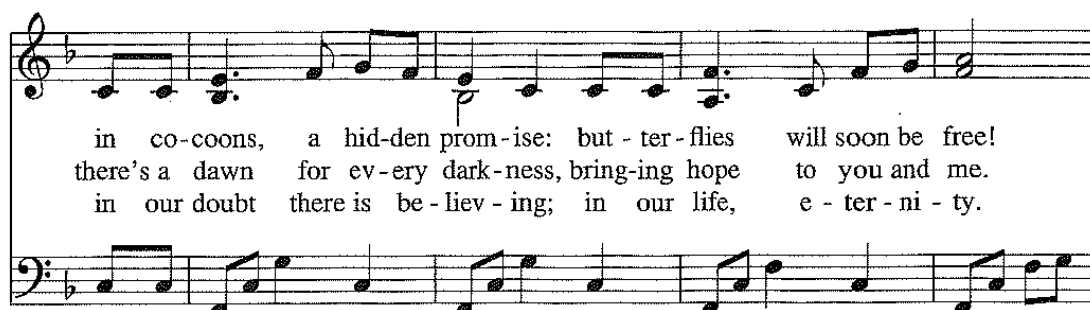
# In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

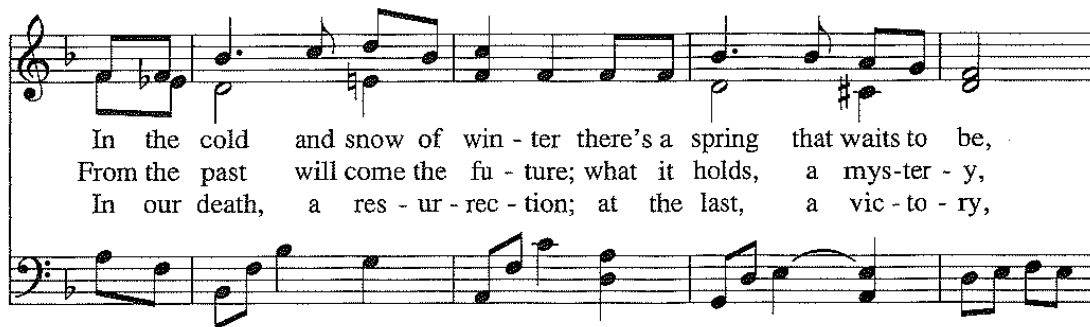
*Unison*



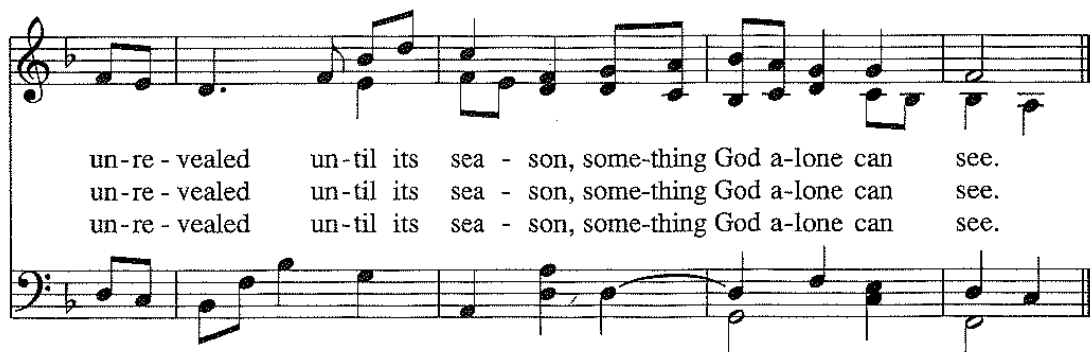
1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

*Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.*

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Natalie Sleeth, 1985