

**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 in Lent
“These Forty Days”
The Sacrament of Communion
Sunday, April 3, 2022
10:00 am

Prelude *“Variation 18, Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini”*
Rachmaninoff

Welcome

Opening Hymn *“God Our Author and Creator”*
(printed in Bulletin)

Opening Prayer (together)

Holy One, as we continue the journey of Lent together, we renew our commitment to the way of life Jesus said was most important of all - to love You with all our heart and soul, and others as ourselves.

We know though, that we don't always do this. We know that too often we turn away from You and others; turn away out of pride, fear, hypocrisy and greed; place expectations and judgements on others that we do not place on ourselves.

Help us to lift burdens instead of place them on others. Help us to honor others as Your equally loved and valued daughters and sons. Help us to be people of integrity – people committed to our own and others' wholeness. As Jesus was.

And so together, we say to You now the words that Jesus – the One who calls us to love and wholeness – 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.

Solo *“Woe Unto Them Who Forsake Him!” (from “Elijah”)*

Mendlesohn

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Woe, woe unto them who forsake Him! Destruction shall fall upon them: for they have transgressed, transgressed against Him.

Though they are by Him redeemed, by Him redeemed, though they are by Him redeemed. Yet they have spoken falsely against Him, spoken falsely against Him.

Woe, woe until them who forsake Him! Destruction shall fall upon them. Though they are by Him redeemed; from Him have they fled; though they are by Him redeemed; even from Him have they fled.

Woe unto them! Woe unto them!

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation

“O Perfect Life of Love”

Canning

Dr. Herman Weiss, organist

The Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 95

John Round

(New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)

¹ O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³ For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

⁷For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

⁸ Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

¹⁰For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways.”

¹¹Therefore in my anger I swore,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

The Gospels

John 3:16-17

(New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Message

Choir Anthem

“We Walk by Faith”

Kosche

We walk by faith and not by sight

No gracious words we hear from Christ, who spoke as none ever spoke; but we believe Him near.

- Our Deacons this morning are Nancy Peterson and Barbara Smith.
- **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.
- Our current *“Spiritual Exploration”* unit is Lent-focused:

“The Usual Suspects”

Tuesdays: 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 **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid..**
- 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.

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. Suddenly the caution that she has carefully cultivated as protection is threatened. Still she perseveres, applying her talents and lifting up those that surround her as she does.


goodreads

God Our Author and Creator



Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985

Gen. 1:1-2:3; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 12:2; John 3:16-17



Unison





1 God our Au - thor and Cre - a - tor, in whose life we find our own,
2 Like those first a - pos-tles, Sav-ior, give us strength to love and serve:
3 Keep us faith-ful, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us bear the mes-sage true,




make our dai - ly wit - ness great-er, by our lives make your love known.
when our faint-ing spir - its wa-ver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."



Help us show how love em-brac-es those whom fear and greed down-trod;
Teach us wis - dom and com-pas-sion: bid our rest - less thoughts be still;
Join our lives in might-y cho-rus till we come from ev - ery place,



in all yearn-ing hearts and fac - es let us see a child of God.
by your guid-ance help us fash-ion lives con-formed un - to your will.
with all those who went be - fore us, to the full - ness of God's grace.



In 1985, a hymn competition was held to commemorate the centennial of the Women's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. This winning text by Carl P. Daw, Jr., fulfilled the guideline that the hymn address mission in the context of daily life.

Tune: JEFFERSON 8.7.8.7.D.
Southern Harmony, 1835
Harm. John Ferguson, 1973

God Loved the World

John 3:16-17

Heiliges Lippen und Herzens Opfer, Stettin, 1778

Transl. August Crull, 1845; alt.

1 God loved the world, and lov - ing gave
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith,
3 If you are sick, if death is near,
4 Be of good cheer, for God in Christ

a won - drous gift, the lost to save,
who was made flesh and suf - fered death;
this truth your trou - bled heart can cheer;
for - gives the flock, by sin en - ticed,

That all who would in Christ be - lieve
All who con - fide in Christ a - lone
Christ Je - sus saves us all from death;
And jus - ti - fied by Je - sus' blood,

should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
that is the firm - est ground of faith.
your bap - tism grants the high - est good.

Edward Miller, a skilled flutist in G. F. Handel's orchestra, adapted Rockingham from the tune Tunbridge. Miller named it for the Marquis of Rockingham, a patron and friend, and prime minister of Great Britain.

Tune: ROCKINGHAM L.M.

Anon.

Adapt. Edward Miller, 1790