



**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*

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sunday, November 6, 2022
10:00 AM**

Prelude Reminiscing – Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)

Welcome

Opening Hymn *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* #556

Call to Worship

One: Come into this holy space. Remembering those who have gone before us, be thankful for all they have given us.

This day, this new day, is our turn to give and guide.

All: We seek respite from the world's storms and doubts. We seek renewal in God's way.

One: Leave behind the frantic, foreboding, fractured world.

All: We seek peace in the shelter of God's care.

One: For this hour, remember you are God's people. You are brothers and sisters of our savior Jesus Christ, who lived and died, and rose again.

All: Holy One, be with us as we worship you.

Children's Moment (for young and young at heart) Jeanne Westcott
(Children stay in worship with their families today)

Choir Anthem *When the Stars Are Gone* – Henry Mollicone (1946 – 2022)
words by Robert Louis Stevenson

The stars shine over the mountains, the stars shine over the sea, the stars look up to the mighty God, the stars look down on me; the stars shall last for a million years, a million years and a day, but God and I will live and love when the stars have passed away.

Prayer of Gathering and Confession

All: Jesus, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We have been tossed, distracted, overwhelmed by the news of deadly conflict, prey to fears, doubt, division and despair. We have wandered from your way.

(silence)

We confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

We have done that which should not have been done, while leaving undone the things that we should have done.

We have said words that we regret but which cannot be taken back.

We have left unsaid that which we should have said.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as you taught us to do.

We have allowed ourselves to live divided from those who we see as different.

(silence)

We are aware of our frailty. We know that we cannot save ourselves.

But you have all power to save us, and to you we humbly turn.

Bless us, redeem us, lead us to a new, joyful life with you.

(silence)

Words of Forgiveness and Grace

One: Any one in Christ becomes a new person altogether.

The past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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.

“Why First Parish?” Paul Lengieza

Invitation to the Offering

Music Meditation There Are Stars - words and music by Marshall Portnoy (1944)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

There are stars so bright, that even far away, that even after life they shine, shine, shine; and when they glow, that's how you know your way. There are smiles so bright, that even after years you can see them through your tears, they shine, shine, shine; though you're apart, they're in your heart for always. Autumn follows summer, leaves and laughter fall, but in the chill of winter the stars shine most of all. There are souls so bright that even when they're gone, that even in the night they shine, shine, shine; and when they glow, that's how you know your way.

Prayer of Dedication (together)

Oh God, these gifts of our labor, and the gifts of our time, all are made of stardust and energy.

We return to you a portion of what you have given us.

We seek to do your work in this time and place.

Bless these gifts and bless us in the giving of them.

Amen

Scripture Reading Mark Heslop

Haggai 2:1-9

In the second year of King Darius, ¹ in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai, saying: ² Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, ³ Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? ⁴ Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the LORD; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the LORD; work, for I am with you, says the LORD of hosts, ⁵ according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. ⁶ For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; ⁷ and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. ⁹ The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17

¹ As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴ He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Sermon *Shaken, Stirred, Renewed* Rev. Teri Motley

Choir Anthem Hear Me, Redeemer – words and music by Henry Mollicone
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Hear me, Redeemer, send down your love to cleanse my soul. Lord of Lords, wash away my sinful ways, show me the power of your love! Lord of Lords, shine your light through all my days, show me the power of your love! Hear me Redeemer, send down your love to cleanse my soul. Mighty God, take my hand and lead the way, show me the power of your love! Mighty God, let me praise you every day, show me the power of your love!

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Prayer of Praise

Pastor: We come to this table in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be the Good News.

Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us, to reveal the mystery of your Word,

to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

With our sisters and brothers in faith, we praise you

**All: Holy Holy, Holy, God of love and majesty,
the whole universe tells of your glory, O God Most High.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Institution

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine (gluten free bread available)

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ.

Strengthen our faith, Increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Hymn *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing #77*

Blessing

Closing Song *Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God) – Zulu Song, arr. Doreen Rao*

Our Deacons this morning are Ann and Mark Heslop.

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, we invite everyone to join us for **“Coffee Fellowship”** following the service.

This morning we welcome Guest Minister, Rev. Teri Motley.

Rev. Teri Motley was raised in Minnesota, in a family which she describes as “strict atheist”. Coming East to college, she moved with her first husband to Springfield Vermont, where she lived for over 20 years. In that time, she began her faith journey when she attended a UCC church, and then attended divinity school first in Bangor Maine, and then finishing her Masters in Divinity degree at Andover Newton Theological School, in Newton Massachusetts.

Moving with her second husband to Nahant, she was supported in her journey to ordination by the Nahant Village Church. She has served churches in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. She enjoys preaching and supporting the church in any way she can.

Music Note –

The music this morning forms an extension of All Souls Day in the church. I've drawn on the concept of the souls of our departed taking residence in the stars. Beginning with last week's 'Lost in the Stars' and continuing into this week with 'When the Stars Are Gone' and 'There Are Stars' the concept of stars as celestial bodies in which our souls reside and guide the earthly paths of loved ones has existed since the dawn of humanity.
Herman Weiss

First Parish Staff

Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music, hweiss05@comcast.net
Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry
jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com
Nancy Klebart, Office Manager, office.fpchurch@gmail.com
978-526-7661 ext. 1

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.

The Church Bell Newsletter [click to read](#) the most recent edition.

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>

Learn more about First Parish online:

[Facebook](#) www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/

[Instagram](#) www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/

[Website](#) www.firstparishchurch.org/

[YouTube Worship Services](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvfURhmsH8lfE13FLaRtWcw-pOTC9T2h>

First Parish will hold its first annual **Messiah Sing** in its Sanctuary on **December 11, 2022, at 7 PM**. Singers and listeners are welcome to join us in the glorious music of G. F. Handel. Featured will be soloists and orchestra, conducted by our Music Director, Dr. Herman Weiss. This event is open to the public and will be followed by a reception in the Chapel Hall. It also will be live streamed and recorded. A free will offering will be accepted at the door. You are encouraged to bring your musical scores. Additional scores will be available if needed.

Fall Children and Youth Fellowship

Today, Sunday, November 6, Youth Fellowship Outing destination and time tbd. Community, friendship, and support built through dinners, movie nights, community service, escape rooms, retreats and more, open to all youth ages 13 – 18, twice a month. Questions? Contact Jeanne Westcott, Director of Children and Youth Ministries at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com

Sunday, November 13, 5:30 PM Family-Friendly Movie Night with craft. Faith Formation will host a family-friendly movie, free for all accompanied by an adult, with crafts and snacks provided. Our “craft” will be a beeswax candle decoration suitable for Thanksgiving, Advent or to be given as a gift. Pre-registration required sign up [here](#)

Saturday, December 10, 12 PM - 4 PM Winter Queen's Emporium

A holiday shopping opportunity for children ages 5 – 10. Children bring a list and \$1 per family members, to shop in our stocked emporium. They will meet the Winter Queen, enjoy a treat, and wrap/tag their gifts to surprise their family! Pre-registration required sign children up [here](#)

Thursday Spiritual Study Join in a lively discussion, Thursdays, 4 PM, on Zoom using The Daily Word as a resource. Questions or to join in contact Paul Lengieza 978-526-4765, lengiezap@hotmail.com.

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-5 pm. In November - **Nov 3 & 17.** We welcome all to stop by anytime during that time. Over the years we have enjoyed our time knitting and crocheting items for baptismal events at the church, shawls and blankets for friends at home, scarves, neck gators, and helmet liners for our veterans in combat, and mittens and hats for Cape Ann children. We are always looking for knitting needles and yarn that you might be considering “casting” aside, especially wool. Contact Penny Lapham at 978-526-7128.

Book Group News This is a time for church members as well as non-church friends to come together and engage with one another, build relationships, and share in a discussion of books that are of interest to people of various backgrounds. We have fun visiting, conversing about the book and sharing stories and would love to have you join us! Questions? Call Mary Ellen Cook 978-500-0018. We next meet **November 28th** to discuss **“In the Woods” by Tana French** at Nancy Peterson’s home 111Chebacco Rd. South Hamilton. RSVP to Nancy at 508-284-0883.

December 19 Book Group Christmas Gathering We will get together for a potluck dinner at Liz Loomis' home 34 Bennett St. Manchester. Bring a favorite dish and a wrapped used book for a book swap. Optional book read – **“Small Things Like These” by Claire Keegan.**

It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church. Already an international bestseller, Small Things Like These is a deeply affecting story of hope, quiet heroism, and empathy from one of our most critically lauded and iconic writers. goodreads

Looking ahead to **January 20 “The Two- Family House” by Lynda Cohen Loigman** location TBD.

Brooklyn, 1947: in the midst of a blizzard, in a two-family brownstone, two babies are born minutes apart to two women. They are sisters by marriage with an impenetrable bond forged before and during that dramatic night; but as the years progress, small cracks start to appear and their once deep friendship begins to unravel. No one knows why, and no one can stop it. One misguided choice; one moment of tragedy. Heartbreak wars with happiness and almost but not quite wins. From debut novelist Lynda Cohen Loigman comes The Two-Family House, a moving family saga filled with heart, emotion, longing, love, and mystery. goodreads

**The Outreach and Service collection continues for -
The Open Door and The Grace Center items 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 November

For Hospitals – Blankets, Pillows, T-shirts & Underwear
Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel.

Our **FPCC Compassion child**, Chepkirwok needs supporters for 2023, [sign up now](#), questions can be directed to Sue Parker, sueparker33@aol.com.

Our New Online Prayer Wall Give it a try! Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. Feel more connected to the Joys and Concerns of our congregation, and hear what's on each other's hearts. You will be touched to receive notifications every time someone prays for you. <https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>

Forming a Stephen Ministry at First Parish

Several members are organizing a Stephen Ministry at First Parish. The Stephen Ministry, named for Stephen, who in Acts 6 was appointed to assist members of the community suffering acute hardships, is a 50 year old interdenominational Christian tradition which trains lay members of the Congregation in psychology and theology to be a Christian presence with all in the community suffering acute challenges. Typical examples would include bereavement, divorce, terminal illness, substance abuse, or mental illness.

Full details of the program are available by clicking [Stephen Ministries](#). A Stephen Minister's objective is not to "solve" the challenge but rather to ensure that none feel alone in their struggles. (Jesus, after all, did not come to "fix" all of our challenges, but rather to be *with* us in our struggles.) At the same time, a Stephen Ministry in a congregation develops a network of specialized services suitable to assist individuals with particular problems. For example, someone struggling with alcoholism would be introduced to a local AA group, while the Stephen Minister would continue to meet with that individual as a friend and witness. We are currently working closely with the Outreach & Service Committee and the Care Team on this project. In the short term, as the leadership is trained and the program develops, our intention is to augment the work of the Care Team and develop our network of specialized services to which we can refer people for specialized support. Our tentative expectation is that during the current program year we will assist people within the congregation, with the goal of offering a fully trained and developed service to the full local community in the following program year. If you are interested in learning more about this project, call Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.

Contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge by going to <http://www.PayPal.Me/FPCChurchManchester> and clicking the "send" button to start your transaction.

First Parish is looking for help with streaming our worship services. Can you volunteer? Full training is provided! Not sure? Sign up to be an assistant to the volunteer who is streaming. We need your help to continue to provide online access to Worship services. Sign up [here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-sunday2) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-sunday2> or contact Richard Smith at richard.w.smith@gmail.com.

Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee and Conversation

Starting September 12th 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!

Health clinic the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month, 10:00 - noon at the Chapel building, by The Visiting Nurses Association. Services offered include health assessments, blood pressure screenings, B12 administration, pulse, heart and lung monitoring, blood sugar screenings for diabetics, medication and diet consults. Drop in, free.

Upcoming Guest Worship Leaders

Today, November 6, Rev. Teri Motley

November 13, Rev. Judy Brain

November 20, Outreach & Service Committee

November 27, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

December 4, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

December 11, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

December 18, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

December 24, 5 PM Jeanne Westcott, FPC Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

December 24, 7 PM Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

December 25, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith