

**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, September 25, 2022
10:00 am**

Prelude Elegy Stephen Wood (1972)

Welcome

Opening Hymn *“Community of Christ”*

Call to Worship

(adapted from the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

One: We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.

All: Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

One: Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear, only love can do that.

All: We must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation.

One: We must narrow the gaping chasm between our proclamations of peace and our deeds which perpetuate war.

All: Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.

Choir Anthem How Firm a Foundation Mack Wilberg (1955)

How Firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent word!

What more can He say than to you He hath said, who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

In ev'ry condition, in sickness, in health, in poverty's vale or abounding in wealth, at home or abroad, on the land or the sea as thy days may demand, so shall thy succor be. Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed, I am thy God and will still give thee aid. I'll strengthen

thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand. Thy soul that on Jesus hath leaned, for repose I will not, I cannot, desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never forsake! Amen!

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 Just a Closer Walk with Thee traditional, arr.
Richard Walters (1982)
Paul Knox, solo

I am weak but thou art strong, Jesus keep me from all wrong. I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee. Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it Jesus is my plea, daily walking close to Thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be. Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it Jesus is my plea, daily walking close to Thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be. Daily walking close to Thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Prayer of Dedication (together)

One: Gracious God, accept our lives as well as our gifts.

All: Let the spirit in which we give them be your Spirit of love and grace. Let the use that is made of them be for your purposes of peace and compassion. Amen.

Scripture

Proverbs 3:13-18, New Revised Standard Version Lynda Griffiths

- ¹³ Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,
¹⁴ for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.
¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honour.
¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.

Sermon “*Discovering Peace*” Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray

Choir Anthem Awake, My Soul, and Sing Allen Pote (1945 – 2010) text: based on Psalms 71 & 108

Awake, my soul, and sing; arise and sing a psalm. For great are you, Lord, and great your love; Your kindness is forever. You have been my hope, my confidence since my youth. I will proclaim your marvelous deeds. I will ever sing praises. Even when I am growing old, do not forsake me, O God. I will declare your strength and power to the next generation, to all who are to come. Awake, my soul, and sing; arise and sing a psalm. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, your glory over all the earth. You have been my rock, my fortress, and my shield. I will ever praise your name, for you are my God. Awake, my soul, and sing. Arise and sing a psalm. For great are you, Lord, and great your love. You are my God! Awake, my soul, and sing!

Closing Hymn “*Lead On Eternal Sovereign*”

Blessing

Closing Song The Peace of the Earth – words and music Guatemalan traditional

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too; the peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans too. Deep peace falling over you; God’s peace growing in you.

- **Welcome our Preacher today Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray.** Brian is the Mission Director for Disciples Peace Fellowship, the oldest denominational peace fellowship in the country. An ordained minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) he is a leader in his faith tradition on issues of peace, justice, advocacy, and movement building. Before taking this call, Brian was a pastor for UCC and Disciples congregations in Ohio and Arizona. Brian is married to the Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. They live together in Cambridge, Massachusetts with their 16-year-old son Henry and their 3-year-old Cavalier King Charles puppy Hercules.
- **We welcome Bonnie Anderson our Guest Musician this morning.** Bonnie has a varied career as chamber pianist, orchestral pianist, soloist, and teacher of students ages 12-88.

She enjoys collaborating with musicians from the Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and San Francisco Symphony. Highlights of her collaborations include performing Hindemith's Trio for Saxophone, Viola and Piano with Branford Marsalis and Christof Huebner on the Nantucket Island Musical Arts Society Series, recital with Joseph Foley on the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra "Unleashed Series" in Houston, and concerts with her Piano Duo partner Stella Owen around New England. As orchestral pianist, Bonnie is a member of Orchestra of Indian Hill and performs as guest pianist with Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Concord Orchestra, and Portland Symphony. An enthusiastic educator, Bonnie teaches at Phillips Andover Academy and was previously on the faculty at UMass Lowell. This year's projects include outdoor concerts on two keyboards with her Piano Duo, solo recitals of her solo arrangements of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, and concerts with her new Piano Trio. Bonnie's recordings include a solo piano disc featuring French composers and a collaborative disc (Nightsongs) with trumpeter Joseph Foley. Bonnie attended the Juilliard School, Michigan State University, French Piano Institute in Paris and received her DMA from Boston University. She lives in Manchester with her family and two golden retrievers.

- Our Deacon this morning is Sue Parker.
- **We invite everyone to join us for "Coffee Hour Fellowship" immediately following Worship!**
- **Jazz Sunday is back on October 2nd**

Once again we'll raise the roof in the Sanctuary, worshiping through jazz and gospel music. Featuring the First Parish Choir and soloist Rebecca Shrimpton, with favorite guest musicians Brian Price (tenor sax), Carolyn Wilkins (piano), Tom Palance (trumpet), Russell Lane (drums), and more.

Come raise a joyful voice with us!

- 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>

- **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

- 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
- Our FPCC Compassion child, Chepkirwok needs supporters for 2023, [sign up now](#), questions can be directed to Sue Parker, sueparker33@aol.com.
- [Click to read](#) The Church Bell Newsletter of First Parish Church Congregational.
- **Use the links below to learn more about First Parish Church 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>

- **Thursday- Bible Study** sessions are changing during the pre-interim period. The group will continue their lively discussions each Thursday afternoons, 4 PM, on Zoom using The Daily Word as a resource. For more information or to join in contact Paul Lengieza at 978-526-4765, lengiezap@hotmail.com or contact the FPC office at 978-526-7661 ext. 1.
- The Visiting Nurses Association offers a **VNA health clinic the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month**, 10:00 - noon at the Chapel building.

- **The Seaside Parish Knitters meets each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-5 pm.** We welcome anyone to stop by anytime during that time and join in. 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.
- **Fall Youth and Children’s Ministry News**

The School Supplies Drive will launch today, Sunday, September 11 and run through October 9 with a *Blessing of the Supplies*. This benefits Beeman in Gloucester. There will be a bin to collect assorted school supplies outside of the Chapel Hall

Backpacks

Number 2 Pencils

Sharpeners

Washable Markers

Composition Books

School Glue

Two Pocket Folders

Ballpoint Pens

Colored Pencils

Pencil Cases

Colored Construction Paper

Thin Dry Erase and Sharpies

Today Sunday, September 25: A registration event with games, snacks, registration, and an opportunity to add to the school supplies drive. This will take place after worship from 11:15 AM - 1 PM.

Sunday, October 2: Sunday School begins with a Family Sunday, every Communion Sunday will be a Family Sunday with the children remain for the worship service.

Sunday, October 9: Sunday School classes begin.

Saturday, October 8: CE will host a *Hoops for School Supplies* event. More details on this and Youth Fellowship registration will be coming in the October newsletter.

Two monthly meetings-a dinner included discussion topic meeting, games, group mission hands on project and the 2nd a special event - movie, paint night, escape room, trampoline park, ropes day, etc.

- **Book Group News** - Did you know we have a book group at First Parish? It is open to anyone and meets on the last Monday of the month.

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!

We are next meeting tomorrow Monday **September 26, 6:30 PM** at Meredith Tuft's home, 3 Woodholm Circle, Manchester.

We will discuss ***"The Remarkably Bright Creatures"*** by **Shelby Van Pelt**.

If you haven't seen the video *"The Octopus Teacher"* on TV this would complement the book. Please call Meredith at 978-500-5439 to RSVP if you are attending.

The October gathering will be on **October 24th** (not the 31st which is Halloween), at Mary Lumsden's home, 18 Woodcrest Rd. Manchester. We will discuss ***"The Alice Network"*** by **Kate Quinn**. RSVP to Mary at 978-712-0047.

For questions about Book Group call Mary Ellen Cook 978-500-0018 or the FPC office at 978-526-7661 ext. 1.

- **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.

- **The Outreach and Service collection continues for The Open Door and The Grace Center and Operation Troop Support-** Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel.

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 September –

Instant Breakfast Cereal & Oatmeal Soup

- **Our New Online Prayer Wall - Give it a try!**

Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website.

A few of us have given it a "test drive," and we've found it to be a spiritually deepening and enlivening addition to our lives.

We feel more connected to the Joys and Concerns of our congregation, and don't have to wait until the Sunday service to hear what's on each other's hearts. And we've been touched to receive notifications every time someone prays for us. Please, give it a try!

www.firstparishchurch.org

- **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!

Community of Christ

Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:
the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;

The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

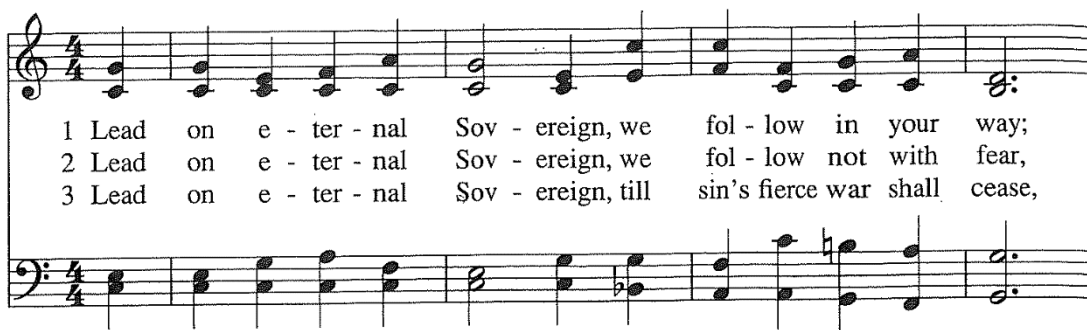
whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

Shirley Erena Murray has grown up within the Ecumenical Movement and addresses related themes such as Christian unity and social justice in her hymnody. This text was first sung at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

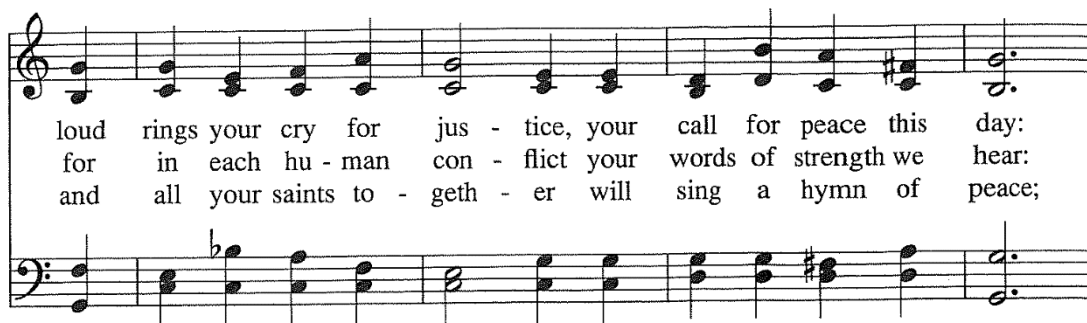
Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.
Traditional Hebrew melody
Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

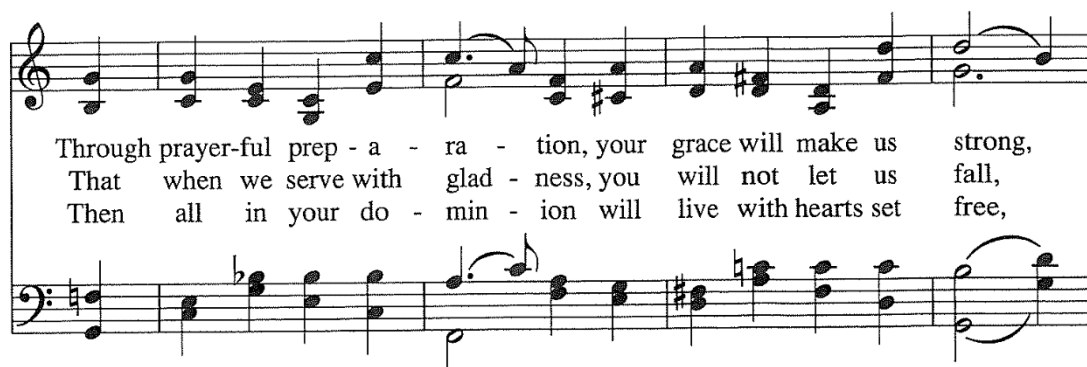
Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.



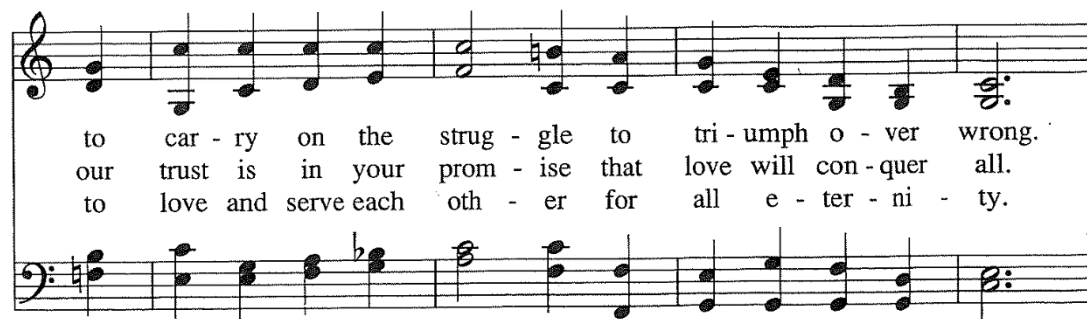
1 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low in your way;
2 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low not with fear,
3 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,



loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day:
for in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear:
and all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;



Through prayer-ful prep - a - ra - tion, your grace will make us strong,
That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,
Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,



to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong.
our trust is in your prom - ise that love will con - quer all.
to love and serve each oth - er for all e - ter - ni - ty.

At Andover Seminary, fellow students asked Ernest W. Shurtleff to write a hymn for their graduation. This is the result. Shurtleff became a Congregational minister and in his last years established churches in Europe and did relief work during World War I.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836

- **Upcoming Guest Worship Leaders**

Through our pre-interim period we will have the following worship leaders filling our pulpit-

Today, September 25, Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray

October 2, Rev. Teri Motley

October 9, Jasmine Buchanan, Minister in Discernment

October 16, Rev. Judy Brain

October 23, Gene D'Angelo

October 30, Rev. Jared Hamilton

November 6, Rev. Teri Motley

November 13, Rev. Judy Brain

November 20, Outreach & Service Committee

November 27, Rev. Dr. Llewelyn Smith

December 4, Rev. Dr. Llewelyn Smith

December 11, Rev. Dr. Llewelyn Smith

December 18, Rev. Dr. Llewelyn Smith

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

December 24, 7 PM Rev. Dr. Llewelyn Smith

December 25, Rev. Dr. Llewelyn Smith