



**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, October 16, 2022
10:00 AM**

Prelude E Phrygian – Johann Krieger (1651-1735)

Welcome Janet Groth, Deacon

Opening Hymn *When Morning Gilds the Skies* NCH #86

Call to Worship

LEADER: Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned.
A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

PEOPLE: **We know the beauty of God's creation
and the wonder of the human family.**

LEADER: We gather to worship God, to share prayers and gifts,
to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

PEOPLE: **May God strengthen us, so that what we do in the days to
come might be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.**

Children's Moment (for young and young at heart) Jeanne Westcott
(Children will leave to go to Sunday School after)

Choir Anthem Built on a Rock the Church Shall Stand – Dale Wood
(1934 – 2003)

Built on a Rock the Church shall stand, even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, bells still are chiming and calling –
calling the young and old to rest, calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting. Not in our temples made with hands – God,
the almighty, is dwelling. High in the heav'ns His temple stands, all
earthly temples excelling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n above deigns
abide with us in love, making our bodies His temple. We are God's house
of living stones, built for His own habitation; He fills our hearts, His
humble thrones, granting us life and salvation. Were two or three to seek
His face, He in their midst would show His grace, blessings upon them
be stowing. Through all the passing years, O Lord, grant that, when
church bells are ringing, many may come to hear God's word where this
promise is bringing: I know my own, my own know me; You, not the
world, my face shall see, my peace I leave with you. 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

Organ Meditation Andante Religioso – Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Prayer of Dedication

What we have, we bring to you, oh God.

The work of our hands, the love of our hearts.

Our good intentions, our failed purposes, our jobs, and our relationships

Take them to your own heart and make them holy. Amen

Psalm 121 NRSV Updated Version Liz Loomis

Assurance of God's Protection

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Message “*Nevertheless, She Persisted*”

Luke 18:1-8 The Message

The Story of the Persistent Widow

Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, “There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: ‘My rights are being violated. Protect me!’

“He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, ‘I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think.

But because this widow won't quit badgering me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.”

Then the Master said, “Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?”

Choir Anthem One Faith, One Hope, One Lord – Craig Courtney (1948)

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which He died,
one voice, one song we lift in praise to Him who was and is and shall be
evermore. There is one body, one spirit, as you were called to one hope.
One Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Father of all, who is in you all.
Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts, we are given to
each other for the unity of faith, that we grow in the knowledge of the Son
of God, in the fullness of Christ.

Closing Hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* NCH #506

Blessing

Closing Song God Bless You and Keep You – Jay Althouse (1951)

God bless you and keep you wherever you may go; His love be a constant companion. God lead you and guide you and be at your side. God bless you and keep you forever.

This morning we welcome Rev. Judy Brain, as our Worship Leader.

Rev. Brain is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School where she was awarded the Billings Prize for Preaching.

Judy served as senior minister at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Lexington for 17 years. A resident of Essex since her retirement, she has continued in ministry as a bridge pastor for churches on the North Shore as well as the Boston suburbs.

In her ministry, a primary focus has been interfaith understanding and social justice. She has worked with many community organizations that promote respect, civility, and peace.

She is an enthusiastic gardener and enjoys swimming, kayaking, jigsaw puzzles, and is a convert to Wordle.

Our Deacon this morning is Janet Groth.

We invite everyone to join in “Coffee Hour Fellowship” after Worship!

Fall Youth and Children’s Ministry News

Kick Off Dinner tonight! Build community, friendship, and support with dinners, movie nights, community service, escape rooms, retreats and more...Ages 13 – 18 **Sunday, Oct. 16 6:30 - 8 PM**. Questions? Contact Jeanne Westcott, Director of Children and Youth Ministries at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com

Women's Fellowship, tomorrow night, Monday, October 17 at 6:30 PM at the Chapel Conference Room. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Call Mary Ellen with questions.

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>

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 most recent edition of The Church Bell Newsletter.

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- 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 or the FPC office 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 meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-5 pm. 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 meet on **October 24th** (not the 31st which is Halloween), to discuss **“The Alice Network” by Kate Quinn** at Mary Lumsden’s home, 18 Woodcrest Rd. Manchester. RSVP to Mary at 978-712-0047.

November 28th we will discuss **“In the Woods” by Tana French** location TBD.

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!

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.

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/>

The Outreach and Service collection continues for The Open Door, 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 October

Disposable cameras Writing materials Calling Cards

Upcoming Guest Worship Leaders

Today, October 9, October 16, Rev. Judy Brain

October 23, Dr. 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. 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