



**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 13, 2022
10:00 AM**

Prelude Voluntary – Charles Stanley (1712-1786)

Welcome by Ann Heslop, Deacon

Call to Worship Alison Hardy

LEADER: People of God, welcome!

This is the day that our God has made.

ALL: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

LEADER: People of God, it is good that you are here!

You are precious in the sight of God.

ALL: Thank you, God, for blessing us with your love.

LEADER: People of God, we come together to bless one another.

**ALL: To our gracious God, fount of every blessing,
we offer our praise.**

Opening Hymn *Come O Fount of Every Blessing* #459

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

Anthem My Lord, What a Mornin' – Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh
(1866 – 1949)

My Lord what a mornin' when the stars begin to fall. Done quit all my
worldly ways;

joined that heavenly band. Oh! My Lord what a mornin' when the stars
begin to fall.

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.**

"Why First Parish?" Eleanor Harris

Invitation to the Offering

Music Meditation Because of Thy Great Bounty – Leon A. Hoffmeister (1892-1954)

Paul Knox, solo

Because I have been given much, I, too, shall give. Because of Thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live I shall divide my gifts from Thee with every brother that I see who has the need of help from me. Because I have been sheltered, fed, by Thy good care, I cannot see another's lack and I not share my glowing fire, my loaf of bread, my roof's safe shelter overhead, that he, too, may be comforted.

Because love has been lavished so upon me, Lord, a wealth I know that was not meant for me to hoard, I shall give love to all I see, to all who need my sympathy. Thus shall I show my thanks to Thee.

Prayer of Dedication (together)

For the blessings that we see every day we thank you. For the blessings that go unnoticed, we thank you. For the opportunity to be a blessing to others, we thank you. Amen

Scripture Psalm 103:1-8 New Revised Standard Version Paul Clark

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Message “*Make Me a Blessing*” Rev. Judy Brain

Scripture I Peter 3:9

Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.

Anthem Make Me a Blessing – George S. Schuler (1888-1988)

Out in the highways and byways of life, many are weary and sad. Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife, making the sorrowing glad. Make me a blessing, out of my life may Jesus shine. Make me a blessing – o savior, I pray. Make me a blessing to someone today.

Closing Hymn Sent Forth by God's Blessing #76

Blessing We Bless Each Other

*Turn and face your fellow parishioners across the aisle
and extend your hand in blessing.*

If you are watching online, bless the person with you, or an animal companion, or place your hand on your heart to bless yourself. I will extend a blessing to you all.

LEADER: Let us bless one another. Beloved friends in Christ ...

**ALL: May the hope of God surround you,
the love of God enfold you,
and the power of God protect you on your way.
May the peace of Christ sustain you,
the joy of faith shine from you,
and God's Spirit dwell within you every day. Amen**

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

Our Deacon this morning is Ann Heslop.

Our Greeters this morning are Paul and Wendy Clark

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 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.

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
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978-526-7661 ext. 1

To join our mailing list fill out a "Welcome Card" to place in the collection plate.

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](#)

Contribute to the work of First Parish Church by going to <http://www.PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester> and clicking the "send" button.

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.

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.

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

Today, November 13, 5:30 PM Family-Friendly Movie Night with craft.
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](#)

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.

November 28th we meet 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

January 20 “The Two- Family House” by Lynda Cohen Loigman
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](#) or contact Richard Smith at richard.w.smith@gmail.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/>

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.

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.

**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
- Healthy Snack Items
- Breakfast Cereal
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Pet Food
- Canned Tuna, Chicken, and Turkey
- 100% Juice/Juice Boxes
- Hearty Soups
- Canned Vegetables and Fruits
- Rice, Noodles, Pasta

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.

Upcoming Guest Worship Leaders today, November 13, Rev. Judy Brain

- November 20, Outreach & Service Committee
- November 27, December 4, 11, 18, 24 7 PM and 25, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith
- December 24, 5 PM Jeanne Westcott, FPC Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

First Parish Church Annual Fund Drive 2023

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Total Pledge for 2023 _____

Thank you for your pledge

*Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so
much.*

Helen Keller



Please use the enclosed pre-stamped envelope to return your pledge or bring to Church on Pledge Sunday, November 20