



**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, Nov. 20, 2022
10:00 AM**

Prelude Come, Ye Thankful People, Come – Hugo Gehrke (1912-1992)

Welcome Christiane Alsop

Opening Hymn *We Gather Together* PH #21

Call to Worship Sandy Bodmer-Turner

Leader: With what shall we come before the Holy One and bow ourselves before God on high?

People: God has shown us what is good.

Leader: What does the Holy One require of us

People: but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God?

Children will leave for Sunday School now.

Opening Prayer Sandy Bodmer-Turner

God of power and love, you raised Jesus from death to life, resplendent in glory to rule over all creation.

Free the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, and to live in his love.

Unite all humankind in Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Solo Consideration – Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I have no one, to which I run, only the Lord whom I can turn. Lord, in your vast consideration, consider me. Tide rolling high billows defy, Lord, hear my pleading, don't pass me by. Lord, when you smile on all creation, consider me. Mad winds may blow; mad breakers roar; they beat on every side. One thing I know and to be sure in Thee my soul can hide. When I'm alone without a home, friends and my loved ones all are gone. Lord, when you give out heav'n reservations, consider me. You know my need, you know my deeds, you know my wishes, let me succeed.

Lord, when you bless those of the nation, consider me. When in the storm let me be calm, trusting Thy promise, do help me on. Lord, when the world break all relations, consider me. Lighten may flash; wild waves may dash; the tempest raging high. Send from above whispers of love; attend my feeble cry. The day will come, life will be done, Lord in your presence let me be one. Lord, when you give out heav'n reservations, consider me.

Prayer Intentions Christiane Alsop
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 and Pledges Steve Carhart

Music Meditation Psalm 46 – Brian Golden (1967)
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Be still, be still, and know that I am God. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. Be still, be still, and know that I am God. Come, behold the works of the Lord! He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear insunder; He burneth the chariot in fire. Be still, be still, and know that I am God.

Prayer of Dedication and Litany of Thanksgiving and Consecration of our Pledges Steve Carhart

Leader: For all that You have blessed us with to use in Your name and
for the good of Your people;

People: We thank You, O God

Leader: Lead us to live each day with grateful hearts and open spirits;

People: So we can hear and answer Your call for our time and place.

Leader: Lead us to be a spiritual community that looks to heal the
broken, care for the suffering, and help the lost find their
way;

People: So we might best serve each other, our community, this nation, and Your world.

Leader: Lead us to practice the kind of giving and receiving relationships that bring us and others closer to wholeness;

People: Understanding that our ways are not always Yours, and that others have much to teach us.

Leader: And lead us, through the resources we pledge throughout this Stewardship season, to help You build and maintain at First Parish a place that will lift up generations of Your people to come;

People: A place that will celebrate each other's blessings, comfort each other's sorrows, forgive each other's failings, and bear each other's burdens. Amen.

Scripture Readings Sandy Bodmer-Turner

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change

And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;

Though its waters roar and foam,

Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

The holy dwelling places of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered;

He raised His voice, the earth melted.

The Lord of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come behold the works of the LORD,

Who has wrought desolations in the earth.

He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth;

He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;

He burns the chariots with fire.

Cease *striving* and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah.

Matthew 25:31-46

31 “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the His glorious throne.

32 “All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35 ‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’

37 Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?

38 ‘And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?

39 ‘When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

40 “The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’

41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink;

43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’

44 “Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’

45 “Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’

Outreach Speakers

Introduction Christiane Alsop

Sue Gabriel, Beverly Bootstraps

Rev. Alice Erickson, Afghan Refugees

Adam Curcuru, Cape Ann Veterans Services District Director

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 *Now Thank We All Our God* NCH #419

Blessing

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

The Stewardship Committee joyfully provided the altar flowers today in celebration of all our blessings at First Parish Church, Congregational. They will be gifted to our Flower Lady, Penny Lapham.

This morning we welcome Sue Gabriel from Beverly Bootstraps, Rev. Alice Erickson from Afghan Refugees and Adam Curcuru, District Director of Cape Ann Veterans Services.

Our Deacon this morning is Ann 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.

First Parish Staff

Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music, hweiss05@comcast.net
Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry
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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**, Chepkiwok needs supporters for 2023, [sign up now](#), questions can be directed to Sue Parker, sueparker33@aol.com.

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. 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.

Monday, 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
Canned Tuna, Chicken, and Turkey
Healthy Snack Items
100% Juice/Juice Boxes
Breakfast Cereal
Hearty Soups
Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Vegetables and Fruits
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, there are collection boxes outside the Church Office.

Today is Pledge Sunday, please put your pledge card in the offering plate during the collection. Thank you for your generosity!

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

Upcoming Guest Worship Leaders today, November 20, Outreach & Service members

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