



**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, January 1, 2023
10:00 AM**

Prelude Christmas Medley 2 – Linda Hartman

Welcome

Hymn Bring a Torch PH #124 (blue hymnal)

The Call to Worship (From a poem by Howard Thurman)

Leader: When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,

**People: When the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock,
then the work of Christmas begins;**

Leader: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner.

**People: To rebuild nations,
to bring peace among brothers and sisters,
to make music in the heart.**

Leader: As we worship here together,
let us begin the work of Christmas.

Solo The Shepherds – Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)
Paul Knox, solo

The shepherds watch their flocks at night; in heaven the stars are shining bright, and all mankind is sleeping. Only the shepherds, the lonely shepherds, over their flocks watch are keeping. And now! Behold, an angel bright, descending through the dark of night. What news of joy he beareth! 'Hear, ye shepherds, ye righteous shepherds. The Saviour of earth now appeareth.' And angel voices join to sing: 'Come praise the Lord, you newborn King; to mortals, peace unending.' Lowly the shepherds, the humble shepherds, on their knees now are bending. They haste to see the child so fair, with Mary and Joseph kneel they there, the Son before them lying. Come with the shepherds, the righteous shepherds and worship with love never dying.

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 Sussex Mummers' Carol – Lucy E. Broadwood (1858-1929), arranged by Percy Grainger (1882-1961)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Prayer of Dedication (together)

Lord, with these gifts of money, we also offer ourselves. In the coming year may the world become a better place because we have done our part—by being a loyal friend, by caring about war, hunger, and homelessness and by living peacefully and compassionately. As a new year unfolds, create in us something new, something wonderful, something holy. Amen

Scripture Matthew 26:31-45 Bethany Woods

When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?'

Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.

Sermon *Lord, When Did We See You?* Rev. Judy Brain

Solo Mary, Did You Know? – Lowry & Greene, arr. Jack Schrader
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?

This child that you've delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?

Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?

When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again;

The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect lamb?

This sleeping child you're holding, is the great, the great "I AM!"

Hymn Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed #537

Blessing

Closing Song God Be with You – Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

God be with you 'till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'till we meet again.

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 Greeter and Reader this morning is Bethany Woods

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.

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

Saturday, Jan. 7 Save the date! A gathering to meet Rev. Kurt Herber. An informal "Koffee with Kurt" gathering is planned from 10 - noon in the Chapel Hall. Rev. Herber will make a few remarks and respond to questions. Please plan to come by and greet Rev. Herber with our trademark FPCC hospitality.

Learn more about First Parish online:

Facebook www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/

Instagram www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/

Website www.firstparishchurch.org/

YouTube [Worship Services](#)

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 office.fpchurch@gmail.com.

First Parish Staff

Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music, hweiss05@comcast.net
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Contribute to the work of First Parish Church by going to <http://www.PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester> and clicking the "send" button.

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 is looking for help with streaming. 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 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/>

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

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. **January 30 "The Two-Family House" by Lynda Cohen Loigman** location TBD.

It isn't too late to donate to our Annual Fund Drive! It is the time of year when the Stewardship Committee and the Board of Trustees work together to plan the upcoming year and the yearly budget. Our Church budget is dependent upon your pledges, thank you for your generosity! You can also email your pledge to office.fpchurch@gmail.com

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.

**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 December Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Creamer, Crackers

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!

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday (Jan 5 & 19) 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.

You Are Invited to Participate in the Stephen Ministry at First Parish

A number of 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.

The service trains lay members of the congregation in psychology and theology to be a Christian presence with any in the community suffering acute challenges. Typical examples would include bereavement, divorce, terminal illness, substance abuse, or mental illness. Fully details of the program are here: [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, the 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. The team is currently working closely with the Outreach & Service Committee and the Care Team on this project.

Two of us are planning to participate in the 25-hour live training program for team leaders offered by the Stephen Ministry headquarters. 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 local 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 broader local community in the following program year. Currently the group meets virtually at 5 pm the first and third Tuesdays of each month to develop the program. In person training and social events will follow!

There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability, so if you think you might be interested, please feel free to just attend and listen.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, call Linda Crosby at 978-314-1526 or Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.