



**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 with Communion  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
Sunday, February 5, 2023  
10:00 AM**

**Prelude** In Tears (from 'On the Overgrown Path') – Leos Janacek (1854-1928)

**Welcome** by Deacon Sue Parker

**Opening Hymn** Give to the Winds thy Fears #404

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Doors open. Hearts ready, God beckons.

Looking for a center point to life, for a union of all the scattered and torn edges.

**People: May our souls find communion here. Searching for honesty, for a truth spoken in love. May our faith be challenged here. Looking for a place to offer your time and talents.**

Leader: May our spirits enrich this community.

**People: Searching for joy to blossom and hope to grow.**

**May our songs reach the heavens, touch our hearts and spread love into the world.**

**Prayer of Invocation** together

God of Community, we rejoice in this time to worship you in this holy place, and through the wonder of technology which gathers us from many places.

Help us reach out beyond the walls of this building, eager to see LIGHT emerging as we share bread and clothes, and welcome others to safe spaces.

Inspire us always to open our hands, our hearts, our minds, that we might truly be followers of Jesus, the Christ, who shows us "the Way". AMEN

**Children's Moment (for young and young at heart) Jeanne Westcott**  
(Children will stay in the Church with their family today)

**Solo Grief** – William Grant Still (1895-1978), poem by Leroy V. Brant  
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Weeping angel with pinions trailing and head bowed low in your hands,  
mourning angel with heartstrings wailing for one who in death's hall stands.  
Mourning angel silence your wailing and raise your head from your hands.  
Weeping angel on your pinions trailing the white dove, promise, stands!  
Weeping angel with pinions trailing and head bowed low in your hands,  
mourning angel with heartstrings wailing for one who in death's hall stands.  
Mourning angel silence your wailing and raise your head from your hands.  
Weeping angel on your pinions trailing the white dove, promise, stands!

**Solo Bewilderment** – Florence B. Price (1887-1953), text Langston Hughes  
(1901-1967)  
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I ask you this: Which way to go. I ask you this: Which way to go. I ask you this:  
Which sin to bear. I ask you this: Which sin to bear. I ask you this: Which  
crown to put upon my hair. I ask you this: Which crown to put upon my hair. I  
do not know, I do not know, I do not know. Lord God, I do not know.

### **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**

**Meditation** Consolation – Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) Dr. Bonnie  
Anderson, piano

### **Prayer of Dedication** together

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous  
outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear.

May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. Amen.

### **Gospel Scripture Matthew 5:13-20 Paul Gudonis**

<sup>13</sup> ‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> ‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### **Sermon “Being a Christian Is Not Easy” Rev. Dr. David L. VanArsdale**

**Anthem** The Storm is Passing Over – Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933), arr. Barbara W. Baker

Have courage my soul and let us journey on. Though the night is dark and I am far from home. Thanks be to God – the morning light appears! The storm is passing over – Hallelu. Hallelujah, the storm is passing over!

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Closing Hymn** Lord, I Want To Be a Christian #454

**Blessing**

## Closing Song I've Got Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river  
in my soul;

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river  
in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a  
fountain in my soul; I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've  
got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an  
ocean in my soul; I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

I've got faith like an anchor, I've got faith like an anchor, I've got faith like an  
anchor in my soul; I've got faith like an anchor, I've got faith like an anchor,  
I've got faith like an anchor in my soul.

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river  
in my soul.

**Music Notes:** The musical choices this morning are based on the concept of  
grief and mourning and their progression to hope and healing. This past year  
has been a difficult time of transition for so many of us - health, loss, loneliness,  
war and more. Music has a power to heal and to connect ourselves with the real  
meaning of life. Whether it appears to us in a church service or outside in the  
world around us, music is the love that animates our true selves.

Additionally, as part of the observance of Black History Month we honor 3  
significant African-American composers: William Grant Still – deemed the  
'Dean of African-American Composers', Florence Price – who earned a  
posthumous Grammy award recently for her 1<sup>st</sup> Symphony and Charles Albert  
Tindley – a renowned Methodist minister who composed 'We Shall Overcome'  
and 'Stand By Me'. They are all unique musically but united in their  
representation of a shared heritage. Herman Weiss

**Our Preacher today is Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale.** Dave retired in 2013 after 41 years in ministry, which started with Ordination in Edwards U.C.C. in Framingham and concluded as Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City, AZ. Ellen and Dave have become a part of the South Church (U.C.C.) in Andover since moving six years ago from Arizona to the Edgewood Retirement Community in North Andover. Dave is also serving as the Chair of the Council on Aging for North Andover.

**We welcome Bonnie Anderson, our Guest Music Director this morning.**

Bonnie Anderson 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.

**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.

**Learn more about First Parish online:**

Facebook [www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/](http://www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/)

Instagram [www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/](http://www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/)

Website [www.firstparishchurch.org/](http://www.firstparishchurch.org/)

YouTube Worship Services

**Thursday Bible Study Led by Rev. Kurt Herber**, Thursdays, 4 PM, on Zoom.

Upcoming dates TBD. Questions or to join in contact  
[office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com).

**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 Staff**

Rev. Kurt Herber, Interim Minister, [kurt.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.fpchurch@gmail.com)

Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music, [hweiss05@comcast.net](mailto:hweiss05@comcast.net)

Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children’s Ministry  
[jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com)

Nancy Klebart, Office Manager, [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com)

978-526-7661 ext. 1

**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](mailto: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/>

**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** drop any of these items at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel, there is a box outside the Church Office door.

**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 January:** Cookies, Candies, Sweets

**Manchester Seniors** - Drop in *for Coffee and Conversation* Mondays 10 AM-12:30 PM (except holidays) at the First Parish 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (Feb 2 & 16) of the month at the Chapel, from 1-5 pm.** We welcome all to stop by anytime during that time. 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**

Currently the group meets virtually at 5 pm the first and third Tuesdays of each month to develop the program. Contact Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.