



**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 22, 2023
10:00 AM**

Prelude Andante, from 1st Symphony – L. van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Welcome by Deacon Liz Loomis

Hymn Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness #286

Call to Worship

Come, all who have walked without light;
come to the light that lives among us in Jesus Christ.

God is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear?

God is a stronghold of my life; I shall not be afraid.

Come, all who have quarreled or slandered another;
come to be united in one mind, one mission.

**God invites us to find life's holy places;
we are welcomed to the joy and shelter of God's care.**

Come, all who would heed the invitation of Jesus;
come together, to follow Jesus into the world.

**God empowers us at the cross of Christ;
we are eager to receive good news to share.**

Invocation together

Out of the deep shadows of our suffering and our doubts, bring us to your light, Gracious God. Out of our hiding places and fear-filled thoughts, deliver us. Shine into the gloom and anguish of the world, where people find no reason to sing. Penetrate the chaos and confusion, the dissension and strife, that keep your children from the unity you intend. Help us to discover anew the joy of participating in the good news of the gospel. Grant us courage to follow where Jesus leads. Amen.

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

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. Great are You, Lord, and great Your love. You are my God! Awake, my soul, awake, my soul, and sing!

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

We will offer sacrifices in God's tent with shouts of joy, for light has come to us and oppressors have been defeated. The riches of God's bounty have been entrusted to us. Let our gifts and our lives answer the call of Christ.

Meditation You've Got a Friend – Carole King (1942)

Paul Knox, solo

Verse: When you're down and troubled and need some love and care and nothin', nothin' is goin' right, close your eyes and think of me and soon I will be there to brighten up even your darkest night.

Chorus: You just call out my name and you know wherever I am I'll come runnin' to see you again. Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you have to do is call and I'll be there. You've got a friend.

Verse: If the sky above you grows dark and full of clouds and that ol' north wind begins to blow, keep you head together and call my name aloud; soon you'll hear me knockin' at your door.

Chorus: You just call out my name and you know wherever I am I'll come runnin' to see you again. Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you have to do is call and I'll be there, yes, I will.

Bridge: Now ain't it good to know that you've got a friend when people can be so cold? They'll hurt you, yes, and desert you and take your soul if you let them. Oh, but don't you let them.

Chorus: You just call out my name and you know wherever I am I'll come runnin' to see you again. Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you have to do is call and I'll be there. You've got a friend. Ain't it good to know you've got a friend.

Prayer of Dedication (together)

We invest our lives as disciples of Jesus. We give our offerings with thanksgiving and rejoicing. May we, with these gifts, share the beauty of God with all who walk in darkness. Unite us in faith and mission, in caring and service. Amen

Scripture Jane Pearson

Matthew 4:12-17

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.'

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

Sermon Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith

Anthem Canon of Praise – Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), arr. Hal Hopson (1933)

All within me bless the Lord, all within me bless His holy name.
O hear, you righteous, know that the Lord is good.
With truth, with hope, He crowns with truth.

Hymn Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer #18

Closing Song The Peace of the Earth - Guatemalan traditional
The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too; the peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans, too. Deep peace falling over you; God's peace growing in you.

Blessing

Walk in the light and salvation of God;
these are gifts to be shared.

**We will not feel the world's darkness
or be afraid of those who slander or oppress.**

God provides for us a dwelling place,
and shelters us in days of trouble.

**We will sing and make melody to God,
rejoicing in the abundance we have received.**

Listen each day for the call of Christ,
daring to follow, proclaiming good news.

**We will invite others to unite with us
in faithful service of the One who heals.**

Amen. **Amen.**

Our Worship this morning is led by Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith, retired pastor of Mass. U.C.C. congregations in East Milton and West Gloucester. In the wider church, she taught Field Education at Yale Divinity School and Andover Newton Theological School and led the area Peer Pastoral Support Committee. Lelly has been active in our congregation, singing in the Choir, and chairing and serving on our Education, Nominating, Mission and Executive Committees. She and her husband George have three children: Singer/Drama Educator, Putnam Smith, Dr. Sarah Gerritz and Rev. Abigail Smith. They have seven grandchildren aging from infant to graduate school.

Our Deacon this morning is Liz Loomis.

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/

Instagram www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/

Website www.firstparishchurch.org/

YouTube Worship Services

Thursday Bible Study Led by Rev. Kurt Herber, Thursdays, 4 PM, on Zoom. Questions or to join in contact 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.

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

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
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

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/>

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! **January 30, 6:30 PM “The Two-Family House” by Lynda Cohen Loigman**, meeting at Lauren Gudonis’ home, 56 Masconomo St. Manchester. Please call Lauren to RSVP for planning purposes 978-526-7914.

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!

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 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. 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

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.