



**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 29, 2023
10:00 AM

Prelude Fugue in D Minor – Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Welcome by Deacon Liz Loomis

Opening Hymn Arise, Your Light Is Come #164

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, all who are poor in spirit, come all who mourn.

People: Come, all who are meek, come, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Leader: Come all who would be merciful and pure in heart.

People: Come all who would be peacemakers.

Leader: Let us come together, we who are sorrowing and weak and distracted.

People: Let us come together, we who are happy and strong and purposeful.

Leader: Let us gather to serve and be served, to give praise and receive hope.

People: Come and celebrate the good news of God's love.

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

Anthem I Come With Joy – Brian Wren (1936) & Peter Niedmann (1960)

I come with joy, a child of God forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall,

in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love

in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

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 O, Divine Redeemer! – Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Erin Merceruio Nelson, solo

Ah! Turn me not away, receive me, tho' unworthy, Hear Thou m cry, behold, Lord, my distress! Answer me from Thy throne. Haste Thee, Lord, to mine aid, Thy pity show in my deep anguish! Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, tho righteous anger, o Lord! Shield me in danger, o regard me! On Thee, o Lord, alone will I call.

O divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not my sins! Forgive me, o divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon and remember not, remember not, o Lord, my sins! Night gathers 'round my soul; fearful, I cry to Thee; come to mine aid, o Lord! Haste thee, Lord, haste to help me! Hear my cry, hear my cry! Save me, Lord, in Thy mercy; hear my cry, hear my cry! Come and save me, o Lord! O divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not my sins! Save, in the day of retribution, from death shield Thou me, o my God! O, divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Savior!

Prayer of Dedication (together)

Loving God, we give these gifts to support our mission to a hurting world.

We give so that compassion reigns where cries of hunger go unheard, where tears of loneliness are shed, where pain and grief are felt. We give out of love and in gratitude for our blessings. Amen.

Matthew 5:2-11 The Message “You’re Blessed” Vivian Argento

You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

Sermon “Kingdom Come” Rev. Judy Brain

Matthew 5:1-11 The Beatitudes NRSV Updated Edition

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Anthem Lord, for Thy Tender Sake – Richard Farrant (? – 1580)

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before Thee now, and evermore. Amen

Closing Hymn Breathe on Me, Breath of God #292

Blessing

Closing Song The Peace of the Earth – words and music 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.

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.

This morning we welcome back soprano Erin Merceruio Nelson.

Hailed as “secure and sonorous” with a “bright, flexible voice” (Boston Musical Intelligencer), soprano Erin Merceruio Nelson is quickly becoming known for her signature blend of impeccable musicianship and strong dramatic instincts across a broad range of challenging repertoire. An avid performer of new and contemporary music, Erin’s 2021 - 2022 season performances include creating the role of The Nymph in the world premiere of *NIGHTTOWN* by Benjamin P. Wenzelberg with Lowell House Opera at Harvard University and creating the role of The Mother-In-Law in Byron Asher’s new opera *The Bedbug* with Promenade Opera Project.

In past seasons, Erin has premiered the chamber work *Tide Flowers* by composer Geoffrey Gibbs at the University of Rhode Island as the soprano soloist, appeared as Bea in Jake Heggie’s *Three Decembers* with TBD Opera Project under the direction of Sharon Daniels, performed the role of Margaret in *The Clever Artifice of Harriet and Margaret* by Leanna Kirchoff with Opera del West, and sang Beth March in Mark Adamo’s *Little Women* with Boston Opera Collaborative. Other recent performances include Lady Clarence in Odyssey Opera’s concert production of Saint-Saëns’ *Henry VIII*, First Lady and Papagena in *The Magic Flute* with the Nahant Music Festival. Erin was also featured in Odyssey Opera’s production of Strauss’ *Die ägyptische Helena* and covered the role of Cunégonde in Opera del West’s production of Bernstein’s *Candide*. Throughout the pandemic, Erin took part in several outdoor concerts with NEMPAC and Opera on Tap Boston. Also recently, Erin was thrilled to be named a Finalist in the Vermont Vocal Competition in Brandon, VT. www.erinmerceruionelson.com.

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](#)

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 Tomorrow, 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. 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!

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 (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. In person training and social events will follow! If you would like to discuss the program in greater detail, call Linda Crosby at 978-314-1526 or Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.