



**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 8, 2023  
10:00 AM**

**Prelude** Passacaglia – Andre Raison (1650-1740)

**Welcome by Deacon**

**Hymn** As with Gladness Those of Old #159

**Call to Worship**

Hear the voice of God, powerful and majestic;  
know the presence of God in whirlwind and flames.

**God speaks to us in thunder and fire;**

**God is revealed in a quiet voice within us.**

See the works of God in the life of Jesus;

feel the Spirit gently descending on our gathering.

**God calls us to ministries of healing.**

**God accepts and affirms us and fills us with light.**

Remember your baptism and sense God's benediction;  
recall God's covenant and dare to live by it.

**God takes us by the hand and keeps us.**

**God grants us a spirit of caring and service.**

**Invocation**

God of the covenant, before whom the mighty prostrate themselves, we bow in humble gratitude that you have called us to be your servants. We have come to receive the light you promise and to equip ourselves to carry your salvation to the ends of the earth. Hear our cries and draw us out of the pits of desolation. Place our feet on solid rock and help us to step forward with patient trust. Baptize us anew with your Spirit as we seek to realize and live out the community you intend.

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

**Organ Solo** Prelude in C (from WTC, book 2) – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

**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**

The wondrous works of God are more than we can number. God has blessed us far beyond our ability to name the gifts. In our baptism, God has called us to a life of witnessing. Let us glorify God through deeds of light and through words that bless and heal. May our offerings reach out around the world in Christ's name.

**Music Meditation** What Offering Shall I Bring? – Moravian melody, arr, Robert Elmore  
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

What offering shall I bring to thee, Immanuel, my King and God? Who came this night, a man to be to save me by thy precious blood; thou at whose birth the angels sing, "Peace on the earth, good will to men" - to whom the wise men humbly bring their gifts of love to Christ the King? This will I do, O Child divine - I'll give my heart in love to thee; my soul and body, Lord, are thine, for thy great love is giv'n for me. My humble sacrifice receive, dear Jesus – born to die for me, that I by faith in thee might live, and with thee live eternally.

### **Prayer of Dedication (together)**

Sovereign God, we have signed on to be your people, so we bring gifts that represent our best, that you might bless them and multiply their effectiveness among us and in global ministries in Christ's name. We thank you for times of renewal and blessing, which equip us to give ourselves more fully in the tasks you set before us. Amen.

### **Scripture Matthew 3:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

## **Sermon “Baptism” Rev. Kurt Herber**

**Choir Anthem** The Shepherd’s Farewell (Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly Dwelling) – Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare,  
Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share,  
Loving father, loving mother, shelter thee with tender care! Loving father,  
loving mother, shelter thee with tender care! Blessed Jesus, we implore  
thee with humble love and holy fear, in the land that lies before thee, forget  
not us who linger here! May the shepherd’s lowly calling, ever to thy heart  
be dear! May the shepherd’s lowly calling, ever to thy heart be dear! Blest  
are thee beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild! Guard ye  
well your heavenly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child! God go  
with you, God protect you safely through the wild, guide you safely through  
the wild!

### **Prayer of Confession**

God of the poor, we confess that we have followed after false gods. We  
have become easily discouraged and have failed to live up to our baptism.  
We have trampled over the bruised of the earth, leaving devastation in our  
wake. We have blown out the light of others’ candles so they cannot see  
your righteousness. Forgive us, God of Majesty and Power, blessing us  
with renewed strength and purpose. Amen.

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Pastor: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving  
breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for  
the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your image, for forgiving  
us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in  
your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who  
was born of your servant Mary and shared joys and sorrows of life as we  
know it.

We remember Christ’s death, we celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and, in the  
beloved community of your church, we await Christ’s return at the end of  
history.

We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst.

We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

**All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "this is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

By eating, this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

**People: Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!**

Pastor: Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

**Hymn Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult #172**

**Blessing**

God gives strength to all who are called to serve;

**We are accepted by God, who shows no partiality.**

**We are chosen as witnesses to our forgiveness in Christ.**

God sends us forth to declare a new day,

When eyes are opened and prisoners are freed.

**We are ready to testify to the truth we find in Jesus.**

**We are prepared to share the love we have known.**

God is pleased with our faithful service,

And equips us anew to do what is right.

**May God give strength to the people!**

**May God bless all people with peace!**

Amen. **Amen.**

**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.

**This morning we welcome our Interim Minister, Rev. Kurt Herber.**

**Our Deacons this morning are Paul Gudonis and 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/](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 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](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com).

**First Parish Staff**

Rev. Kurt Herber, Interim Minister, [kfherber70@gmail.com](mailto:kfherber70@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

**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](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/>

Our **FPCC Compassion child**, Chepkirwok needs supporters for 2023, [sign up now](#), questions can be directed to Sue Parker, [sueparker33@aol.com](mailto: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, 6:30 PM “The Two-Family House” by Lynda Cohen Loigman**, meeting at Mary Ellen’s home, 23 Harold St. Please call Mary Ellen to RSVP for planning purposes.

**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**

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

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.