



**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, March 26, 2023
10:00 AM**

Prelude All Glory, Laud and Honor – Georg Friedrich Kaufmann (1679-1735)
The Palms will be carried in and distributed by the children and Deacons during the prelude

Welcome by Deacon, Nancy Peterson

Call to Worship

Leader: Wave high your palm branches! The Lord of life approaches!
People: Sing with great joy for the Savior has come to us!
Leader: Even the beast of burden on which he rides seems to be royal.
People: All creation shouts praises to the King of Kings!
Leader: Hosanna! Hosanna!
People: Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna!

Prayer of Invocation Unison

God of humble entries, we lay down our branches on the path ahead and give thanks for this day you have created. For this is the day you have made, and we rejoice in it together. As we walk with Jesus and his followers into Jerusalem today, open the gates of our hearts that we might enter your realm with joy and thanksgiving. In the name of the One who came humbly, we pray. Amen.

Hymn Hosanna, Loud Hosanna NCH #213

Anthem God So Loved the World – John Stainer (1840-1901)/John iii, 16-17
God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. God so loved the world.

Prayer Intentions

Pastoral and Silent Prayers

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.

Reception of New Members

Adrian Argento

Vivian Argento

Simone Argento

Andrea Lance Weaver Dan Weaver

Bob Graul

Introduction Rev. Ellie Richardson

Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Question to New Members

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise.

Questions to the Congregation (all stand)

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Covenant of First Parish Church, Congregational Unison
We acknowledge Jesus Christ to be our Savior and Lord,
And accept the Holy Scriptures as our rule of faith and practice.

We recognize the privilege and duty of uniting ourselves for Christian fellowship, the encouragement of Christian sacraments, the public worship of God, and the advancement of God's reign in the world.

We are called to accept the cost and joy of discipleship in the Congregation with its organization and mission. We do now, in the sight of God, invoke God's blessing and solemnly covenant with each other. We associate ourselves to be a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, as inspired by the Word of God.

We agree to walk together in neighborly love. This we do depending upon our God who so loved the world that Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son, was given for our salvation and graces us with the Holy Spirit, our comforter and guide.

Welcome Allison Moir Smith

Let us, the members of First Parish express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Congregation

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Invitation to the Offering

Meditation In the Mornin' – Spiritual, arr. Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

In the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin' when I rise, give me Jesus! Give me Jesus, give me Jesus; you can have all the world, but give me Jesus! 'Twixt the cradle and the grave, 'twixt the cradle and the grave, 'twixt the cradle and the grave, give me Jesus! Give me Jesus, give me Jesus; you can have all the world, but give me Jesus!

Offertory Prayer Unison

Creator of all that has been, is, and will be, You are the God who sees us. You are the God who sustains us.

Thank you for the capacity and the privilege of giving. May these gifts, which we give back to you, transform hunger into nutritious food; literacy into education; thirst into clean, accessible water; disease into healing; displacement into welcome; and despair into hope. We humbly ask you to consecrate these gifts for the transformation of lives and communities so that our abundance may fill their need and their need become our abundance.

To you, God, be the glory! Amen.

Scripture Reading Matthew 21:1- 11 **The Inclusive Bible**

Reader Mary Ellen Cook

As they approached Jerusalem entering Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two disciples with the instructions, "Go into the village straight ahead of you, and immediately you will find a tethered donkey with her colt standing beside her. Untie them and lead them back to me. If anyone questions you, say, 'The Rabbi needs them.' Then they will let them go at once.

This came about to fulfill what was said through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion, your sovereign comes to you without display, riding on a donkey, on a colt, - the foal of a beast of burden."

So, the disciples went off and did as Jesus had ordered. They brought the donkey and her colt, and after they laid their cloaks on the animals, Jesus mounted and rode toward the city.

Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while some began to cut branches from the trees and lay them along the path. The crowds - those that went in front of Jesus and those who followed - were all shouting, "Hosanna to the Heir of the House of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Most High!

Hosanna in the highest!”

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred to its depths, demanding, “Who is this?”

And the crowd kept answering, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Sermon “Where Were You When Jesus Entered the Holy City?”

Rev. Ellie Richardson

Anthem My Lord, What a Mornin’ – Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh
(1866 – 1949)

My Lord what a mornin’ when the stars begin to fall. Done quit all my worldly ways;
joined that heavenly band. Oh! My Lord what a mornin’ when the stars begin to fall.

Service of Holy Communion For those worshiping remotely this morning, take a moment to get a cup of something to drink and a piece of bread or cracker or yes even a cookie.

In the sanctuary, the deacons will first pass the plates of bread. Once everyone is served, we will partake together. Then cups of grape juice will be passed and once everyone is served, we will partake together.

Call to Communion

Leader: On the first day of Holy week long ago, people throughout Judea arrived at the dusty gates of Jerusalem, primed with “Hosanna” in their hearts and Jesus asked to borrow a donkey.

On the Thursday that followed, Jesus rented or was given a friend’s Upper Room to celebrate the Passover with the disciples. On the afternoon of the resurrection, Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus and used the bread of that hospitality to break and bless.

Today lend Christ your table at home or this communion table before us. Lend Jesus your bread, your cup and your heart, for, as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey, “The Lord has need of it.”

Communion Prayer

Distribution of Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving Unison

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of uncertainty. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen

Hymn All Glory, Laud, & Honor NCH #216

Blessing

Closing Song God Be in My Head - H. W. Davies (1869-1941)

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and after my departing.

We invite everyone to join us for *Coffee Hour Fellowship* following Worship.

This morning we welcome Rev. Ellie Richardson, as our Worship Leader.

Rev. Ellie Richardson (She/Her/Hers) is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ having graduated from Andover Newton Theological School. She has served as Minister of Spiritual Development in the historic Andover Association of the Massachusetts Conference (MACUCC); moderator and chair of the Committee on Formation for the historic Andover Association; Associate Conference Minister for Lay & Clergy Leadership Development in the historic MACUCC and the Southern New England Conferences; she is a co-founder of Potentials Coaching & Consulting and is a PCC level trained coach; Ellie also serves churches as an Intentional Transitional Interim Minister.

In addition to church ministry Rev. Ellie serves as co-chair of the COMPASS steering committee, for national setting of the United Church of Christ. COMPASS provides training and support for Community of Practice programs throughout the denomination.

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.

Our Deacon this morning is Mark Heslop.

Our Greeters this morning are Paul and Wendy Clark.

Holy Week –

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 PM Rev. Judy Brain

Good Friday, April 7, 12 Noon Rev. Judy Brain

Easter Sunday Sunrise, April 9, 6:10 AM, Singing Beach, Rev. Luther Zeigler, Rev. Ryan Ackerman and Deacon, Liz Loomis

Easter Sunday, April 9, 10 AM, Rev. Dave VanArsdale. Dr. Herman Weiss leads a Celebration Choir with trumpets and timpani.

Order an Easter Lily to help decorate our Church for Easter morning! Order [online](#) or look for the order form in the bulletin, **deadline tomorrow by noon.**

Youth and Children

Sunday School is really an experience of joy.

All children have a deep and profound relationship with the Divine. They are born with it. As teachers and guides, our job is to provide them with experiences that allow them to explore this depth of feeling and connect it to real life applications. For instance, when children are in conflict and one yells in frustration, “that’s not fair”, what they are experiencing is more akin to, “ I am not satisfied because I have a feeling of justice, and this does not match.” Situations like this allow guides to use examples and stories (depending on the child’s developmental stage) to illustrate how justice, as a Biblical principle, is less about what is fair, and more about what is right. The joy we feel in the Sunday School environment is found in not getting what we want, but in a greater understanding of what makes God smile. Join us as a teacher or guide, tell your neighbors and friends about the wonders of sharing God’s word with children, or just pray for the ever-expanding miraculous adventure that is feeling the Holy Spirit in the everyday! Registration can be done by contacting Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries, at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com

Summer Programming is underway. If you know of a family that could benefit from a dinner date, our Bible Experiences week, held in July this year, offers kids ages 4-12 the chance to eat, play, make, act, write and move to the power and promise of The Armor of God. Capes optional! Keep your eyes peeled for more info!

First Parish Church is seeking two adults (18 years or older) to staff our Nursery room during our worship services on Sunday mornings. Applicants must have infant/toddler experience, be willing to secure appropriate CPR certification, and agree to a Criminal Offender Record Information check. The hours are 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM each Sunday and pay is commensurate with experience. For more information, please contact Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Childrens Ministries, First Parish Church, MBTS, at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com.

Welcome to all who are new to our Worship time. To join our mailing list please fill out a "Welcome Card" to place in the collection plate or contact office.fpchurch@gmail.com, 978-526-7661 ext. 1.

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>

Use the links below to learn more about First Parish Church online

Facebook www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/

Instagram www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/

Website www.firstparishchurch.org/

YouTube Worship Services

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvfURhmsH8lfE13FLaRtWcw-pOTC9T2h>

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

You can contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge @[PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?cgi-bin/olpby/url?url=paypal.me/FPChurchManchester)

[Click to read](#) the most recent edition of **The Church Bell Newsletter**.

Thursday Bible Study Luke's Gospel: Straight Talk for Real People Then...and Now! Thursday at 4 PM on Zoom. We will read and listen to the stories of "unmasking" by people in the biblical story followed by the powerful and memorable stories found in The Gospel of Luke. What about the teachings of Jesus are tough to hear? Wonderful Good News? Challenging for our lives in today's world? This will be a class for beginners and those who want to go much deeper in his/her understandings. Come to one class or come to all five classes. Leader: Rev. Dave VanArsdale, is a retired Presbyterian Pastor living in North Andover. After 40+ years of ministry that began in the U.C.C. at Edwards Church in Framingham, Dave retired ten years ago from Faith Presbyterian in Sun City, AZ. He has taught dozens of Adult Education studies and looks forward to sharing the straight talk found in Luke's gospel and the messages for real people. The Zoom link to join in is sent on Thursday mornings.

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!

First Parish Staff

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

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday (April 5 & 19) of the month at the Chapel, from 1-5 pm. We welcome all to stop by anytime during that time and join in. 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.

Visiting Nurses Health Clinic, free. Held the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month, 10 - 11:45 AM at First Parish Chapel Hall. 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 and open to all.

First Parish is looking for help with streaming our worship services. Can you volunteer? 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](#)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-sunday2>

or contact Richard Smith at richard.w.smith@gmail.com.

Book Group 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! Book Group meets on the last Monday of the month and hosting is shared among members.

Monday, April 24, 6:30 PM at Wendy Hiller Clark's home, 18A Kennedy Road Magnolia. RSVP to Wendy for planning purposes at 978-500-9039. "Black Cake" by Charmaine Wilkerson will be discussed.

Monday, May 26, 6:30 PM at Mary Ellen Cook's home, 23 Harold St. Manchester. RSVP to Mary Ellen Wendy for planning purpose at 978-500-0018. "Lesson in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus will be discussed.

The Stephen Ministry at First Parish Launches April 17 -We are pleased to announce that the Stephen Ministry at First Parish will have its organizational meeting on Monday, April 17, at the church. Two of us will have completed the 25-hour online leadership training courses with the headquarters in St. Louis, and a broader group has been meeting regularly. We are also in touch with other Stephen Ministries at other churches in the area to gain advice, counsel, and support in our group's development. The team is currently working closely with the Outreach & Service Committee and the Care Team on this project. Outreach and Service has made a generous financial contribution to cover startup costs. For the near term as 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. There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability, so if you think you might be interested, email scarh10428@aol.com to receive and email Zoom invitation. 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.

**The Outreach and Service Collections Continue
Drop at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel**

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 Needs for April For hospitals - Sheets, Blankets and Sweatsuits

**The Spring Drive of The Global Refugee Mission of New England
(Runs until June 24)**

Assorted Sewing Fabrics Yarn

Sewing-Knitting Notions: Needles Thread Embroidery thread
Measuring tape Scissors Thimble Straight and Safety pins
Marking pencils Seam ripper Etc.

Art and Educational Supplies: Paper - Lined and Colored

Scissors Pencils, Erasers, Pens Glue Crayons and Markers
Post-its Envelopes Hole punchers and Staplers
Creative art packets Etc.

New-Gently used Stuffed Animals and Toys New and Used

Tents New and Used Sleeping Bags New and Used
Shoes New Bedding and Blankets