



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

**Prelude** Andante, from Concerto #21 in C – W. A. Mozart

**Welcome Janet Groth, Deacon.**

**Opening Hymn** Give Me a Clean Heart #188

**Call to Worship**

Once again, as the season of Lent begins, we are summoned by a gracious and merciful God.

We respond to God's steadfast love, calling us into solemn assembly.

Let all the people gather for self-examination; let all bow in awe before the one who creates.

We approach God in reverence and wonder, rejoicing in the invitation to holy places.

Walk humbly before God in sacred disciplines, in prayer and fasting and giving.

We seek the one who grants us life, upholding us with a willing spirit.

**Invocation**

We, your people, come to claim your promise of salvation, all reconciling God. In your wholeness, we find healing. In your power, we gain strength. In your love, we are thrust beyond our own concerns to embrace a hurting world. Blow the trumpet, that this solemn assembly may rejoice, that remembrance can bring renewal, through Christ. Amen

**Children's Moment (for young and young at heart) Jeanne Westcott**

(Children will leave for Sunday School following)

**Anthem** Hem of Your Robe – Pepper Choplin (1957)

When our worship moves higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. When our worship moves higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. For all heaven's praise and all heaven's songs make all our humble worship seem lowly.

For our highest praise and our highest songs are just a tiny glimpse of Your glory and Your pow'r. When we're bowing lower, let us touch the hem of Your robe. When we're bowing lower, let us touch the hem of Your robe. For all heaven's praise and all heaven's songs make all out humble worship seem lowly. For our highest praise and our highest songs are just a tiny glimpse of Your glory and Your pow'r. Lord, You lift us higher, Lord, You lift us higher, Lord, You lift us higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. Lord, You lift us higher, Lord, You lift us higher, Lord, You lift us higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe.

## **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 give in response to God's generosity. Whether we have much or little, our proportionate giving honors the God we worship. The size of our gifts is no cause for public acclaim. Give, and remember only the joy. Share with bold generosity.

## **Meditation** I Want Jesus to Walk with Me – spiritual, arr. Paul Knox

Paul Knox, solo

I want Jesus to walk with me. I want Jesus to walk with me. All along my pilgrim journey, I want Jesus to walk with me. When I'm in trouble, oh walk with me. When I'm in trouble, oh walk with me. When my heart is almost breaking, I want Jesus to walk with me. In my trials, oh walk with me. In my trials, oh walk with me. When my head is bowed in sorrow, I want Jesus to walk with me.

## **Prayer of Dedication**

## Scripture Reading Jim Turner

### Matthew 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' <sup>4</sup>But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you",  
and "On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him."

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

## Sermon Rev. Kurt Herber

### **Anthem** Amazing Grace – trad., arr. Ed Lojeski

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart, my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious, precious grace that grace did appear the hour I first believed! Thru many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. Amazing grace, amazing grace, bright shining as the sun. We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun. Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

## Closing Hymn Beneath the Cross of Jesus #190

## **Blessing**

Go into this season with hearts attuned to God, with time and treasure invested for God.

We can endure all things through Christ. We will rejoice and express our gratitude.

Go out as bearers of truthful speech and love, with purity, knowledge, forbearance, and kindness.

We go out as forgiven and empowered people, to bring reconciliation and peace.

You can neither wander away from God's presence nor be cut off from the Holy Spirit.

In the joy of salvation, we dare to witness; in the assurance of belonging, we reach out to serve.

Amen.

## **Closing Song** God Be with You – Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

God be with you 'till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you, with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'till we meet again.

## **Our Deacon this morning is Janet Groth.**

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

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.

**Sunday School** meets in the first classroom on the right in the Sunday School wing in the Chapel building. After the Children's Message in the 10:00 am Sunday Service, the children and teachers walk to the Chapel building for prayer, story, song, games, art, and fellowship. We use a multi-age group model allowing older children to serve as models and assistants for younger ones. Each lesson reflects on biblical ideologies that can be applied to real life, such as caring for others, making good choices and accepting responsibility for mistakes. Sunday School is available for children ages 3-12. Registration can be done by contacting Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, at [jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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>

### **First Parish Staff**

Rev. Kurt Herber, Interim Minister, 603-520-8602.

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

You can contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge  
[@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester](https://www.paypal.com/US/merchstore/@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester)

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

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

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

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

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

[YouTube Worship Services](#)

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

**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 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.

**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](mailto:richard.w.smith@gmail.com).

**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.

**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, Feb. 27**, 6 PM we will discuss "Leaving Lucy Pear" by Anna Solomon at Mary Lumsden's home, 18 Woodcrest Rd. Manchester. RSVP to Mary at 978-500-4571 for planning purpose. **Monday, March 27**, 6 PM, at Jill Auld's home, 53H Trask St. Beverly. Members are encouraged to carpool due to limited parking. RSVP to Jill for planning purpose at dsajill1@yahoo.com. "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult will be discussed. For questions about Book Group call Mary Ellen Cook 978-500-0018 or the FPC office at 978-526-7661 ext. 1.

**Thursday Bible Study led by Rev. Kurt Herber**, Thursdays, 4 PM, on Zoom. Beginning again February 16. The Zoom link to join in is sent on Thursday mornings. Questions can be directed to Rev. Herber at 603-520-8602.

### **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!

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

**The Outreach and Service collection continues** 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 items for February** Crossword puzzles, books, playing cards, electronic games.

**Our New Online Prayer Wall - Give it a try!**

Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. A few of us have given it a "test drive," and we've found it to be a spiritually deepening and enlivening addition to our lives. We feel more connected to the Joys and Concerns of our congregation, and don't have to wait until the Sunday service to hear what's on each other's hearts. And we've been touched to receive notifications every time someone prays for us.

<https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>

**Stephen Ministry** 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! There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability, so if you think you might be interested, email [scarh10428@aol.com](mailto:scarh10428@aol.com) to receive and email Zoom invitation. If you would like to discuss call Linda Crosby at 978-314-1526 or Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.