



**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 12, 2023
10:00 AM**

Prelude Air (from 'Suite in D') – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome By Deacon Mark Heslop

Call to Worship Paul Gudonis

LEADER: Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned. A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

PEOPLE: We know the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of the human family.

LEADER: We gather to worship God, to share prayers and gifts, to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

PEOPLE: May God strengthen us, so that what we do in the days to come might be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.

Hymn Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise NCH #1

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

Anthem Blessed Is the Man – Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in the law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree that is planted by the rivers of waters, that bringeth forth his fruit in due season. His leaf shall not wither, and what he doeth shall prosper, shall prosper. And what he doeth shall prosper.

Prayer Intentions Paul Gudonis

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 Paul Gudonis

Meditation The Lost Chord – Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Paul Knox, solo

Seated one day at the keyboard I was weary and ill at ease, and my fingers wandered idly over the noisy keys; I know not what I was playing, or what I was dreaming then; but I struck one chord of music, like the sound of a great Amen, Like the sound of a great Amen. It flooded the crimson twilight, like the close of an Angel's Psalm, and it lay on my fevered spirit, with a touch of infinite calm. It quieted pain and sorrow, like love overcoming strife. It seemed the harmonious echo, from our discordant life. It linked all perplexed meanings into one perfect peace, and trembled away into silence, as if it were loath to cease. I have sought, but I seek it vainly, that one lost chord divine, which came from the soul of the keyboard and entered into mine. It may be that Death's bright Angel will speak in that chord again; it may be that only in Heav'n, I shall hear that grand Amen.

Offertory Prayer (together) Paul Gudonis

What we have, we bring to you, oh God. The work of our hands, the love of our hearts. Our good intentions, our failed purposes, our jobs, and our relationships Take them to your own heart and make them holy. Amen

Scripture John 4:5-42 Jason Smith

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you

living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that

sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Message *Reflections on The Woman at the Well*
Women of First Parish Church

Anthem There Is a Balm in Gilead – William L. Dawson (1899-1990)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Chorus: There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Verse: Some times I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Chorus:

Verse: If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say "He died for all".

Chorus:

Hymn Ah, Holy Jesus NCH #218

Blessing Paul Gudonis

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.

Our Deacons this morning are Mark and Ann Heslop.

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

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>

Become a Member of First Parish! If you participate in the life of this church, we'd love you to join us as members of our spiritual community! Live-streamers and Zoomers are most welcome. Want to know more about what membership at FPCC entails? On Sunday, March 19, Vitality is hosting a "New Members Q & A." This is a brief meeting immediately following the service in the sanctuary. Come, have a cup of coffee with us and learn more. On Sunday, April 2, we will welcome New Members -- in-person AND online -- with a brief ritual during the Worship Service. And celebrate afterwards with cake, of course. For questions, contact Mary Ellen Cook at 978-500-0018 or cook.maryellen7@gmail.com or Allison Moir-Smith at 978-526-1904 or allison.moir.smith@gmail.com. What a joy to welcome New Members at First Parish Church!

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

Thursday Bible Study Luke's Gospel: Straight Talk for Real People Then...and Now! Thursdays 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.

You can contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge @PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester

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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>

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.

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday (March 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.

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.

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

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, 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.

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!

Stephen Ministry Meeting virtually at 5 pm the first and third Tuesdays of each month to develop the program. There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability, so if you think you might be interested, 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 March

DVDs and Microwave Popcorn

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

Glue

Pencils, Erasers, Pens

Crayons and Markers

Hole punchers and Staplers

Post-its

Envelopes

Creative art packets

Etc.

New-Gently used Stuffed Animals and Toys