



**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** Passion Chorale - Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612), arr. J. S. Bach

**Welcome by Deacon Mark Heslop**

**Call to Worship**

One step on the path, we are returning home.

**Drawing closer to God, we are coming back home.**

Seeing the errors we've made, we are turning toward home.

Knowing more about ourselves, we are making our way home.

**Trusting in God's embrace, we are coming home.**

**Hymn** Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us NCH #252

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

(Children will leave for Sunday School following)

**Anthem** We Walk by Faith – Kenneth T. Kosche (1947)

We walk by faith and not by sight; No gracious words we hear from Christ, who spoke as none ever spoke; but we believe Him near. We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where he trod; but in His promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!" Help then, O Lord, our faith abound to call on You where You are found: that when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light we may behold You with full and endless sight.

**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.

## Invitation to the Offering

**Meditation** Ride on, King Jesus! – arr. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Paul Knox, soloist

Ride on, King Jesus! No man can-a hinder me. Ride on, King Jesus, ride on!  
No man can-a hinder me. I was but young when I begun, no man can-a hinder me;  
but now my race is almost done – no man can-a hinder me. Ride on, King Jesus,  
no man can-a hinder me. Ride on, King Jesus, no man can-a hinder me.  
King Jesus rides a milk-white horse, no man can-a hinder me. De ribber of  
Jordan He did cross, no man can-a hinder me. Ride on, King Jesus, no man can-a  
hinder me, ride on, King Jesus, ride on! No man can-a hinder me. Ride, Ride,  
Ride!

**Prayer of Dedication** (together)

**You are the source of every good and perfect gift, O God. Use these tithes and offerings for your glory. Let your church be a spring whose waters never fail; and let your people be repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading John 9:1-12 Paul Clark**

<sup>1</sup>As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We<sup>[a]</sup> must work the works of him who sent me<sup>[b]</sup> while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

## Sermon “That the Works of God Might be Revealed”

Rev. Dr. David L. VanArsdale

**Anthem** Walk, While You Have the Light – Hank Beebe (1926)

Walk, while you have the light, now that you see the light, now lest the darkness cometh upon you; for they that walketh in the darkness knoweth not where they goeth, for a little while walk, while you have the light, see, you can see the light, go, though the doom of darkness be on you. Walk, while you have the light, and you’ll see that you have the light, and believe that the light will guide you forever. Walk, while you have the light. Walk, while you have the light, now that you see the light, now lest the darkness cometh upon you; for they that walketh in the darkness knoweth not where they goeth, for a little while walk, while you have the light, see, you can see the light, go, though the doom of darkness be on you. Walk, while you have the light, and you’ll see that you have the light, and believe that the light will guide you forever. Walk, while you have the light.

**Hymn** More love to thee, O Christ PH #400

**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.

**Our Preacher today is Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale.** Dave retired in 2013 after 41 years in ministry, which started with Ordination in Edwards U.C.C. in Framingham and concluded as Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City, AZ. Ellen and Dave have become a part of the South Church (U.C.C.) in Andover since moving six years ago from Arizona to the Edgewood Retirement Community in North Andover. Dave is also serving as the Chair of the Council on Aging for North Andover.

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.**

**Looking ahead to Holy Week –**

**Palm Sunday, April 2, 10 AM Rev. Ellie Richardson**

**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.

## **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](mailto:jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com)

**Congregation! Let's go check out a movie! Join Jeanne at a viewing of HIS ONLY SON on March 31, Friday for the 8:00 pm showing. Families invited, Youth Invited. All are invited ! AMC Liberty Tree Mall. See you there!**

**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](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>

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

<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](mailto:sueparker33@aol.com).

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

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

**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.

**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.

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

**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)  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-sunday2>  
or contact Richard Smith at [richard.w.smith@gmail.com](mailto: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, 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.

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



## **The Stephen Ministry at First Parish Approaches Informal Launch**

Organization of the Stephen Ministry at First Parish continues to grow and has begun to informally assist people as they come to our attention. By the end of March two of us will have completed the 25 hour online training courses with the headquarters in St. Louis, and a broader group is 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.

As we hope the congregation is aware, the Stephen Ministry—named for Stephen, who in Acts 6 was appointed to assist members of the community suffering acute hardships—is a 50-year-old interdenominational Christian tradition. The service trains lay members of the congregation in psychology and theology to be a Christian presence with any in the community suffering acute challenges. Typical examples would include bereavement, divorce, terminal illness, substance abuse, or mental illness. A Stephen Minister's objective is not to "solve" the challenge but rather to ensure that none feel alone in their struggles. (Jesus, after all, did not come to "fix" all of our challenges, but rather to be with us in our struggles.) At the same time, the Stephen Ministry in a congregation develops a network of specialized services suitable to assist individuals with specific problems. For example, someone struggling with alcoholism would be introduced to a local AA group, while the Stephen Minister would continue to meet with that individual as a friend and witness. 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 leadership is trained and 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. 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 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 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 New and Used

Tents New and Used

Sleeping Bags New and Used

Shoes New

Bedding and Blankets