



**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 5, 2023
Family Sunday
10:00 AM**

Prelude Jesus, I Will Ponder Now – J. G. Walther (1684-1748)

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us worship God. Let us pray.

Prayer of Invocation (Unison)

Come, O Creator, O Immensity of love, O Eternity of mercy.

Come, and be with us and beside us and over us.

Be as hands upon us, and fashion us for shining.

Be as warmth within us, and fire us for caring.

Be as strength beside us, and shape our lives for healing.

**Abide in our prayers, the spoken and the unspoken,
and make your Word come true in our flesh,
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

Hymn When Morning Gilds the Skies #86

Children's Moment (for young and young at heart) Jeanne Westcott
(Children will stay in worship today)

Anthem Dear Lord and Father of Mankind – Hubert Parry (1848-1918)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways! Re-clothe us in our
rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise; O
Sabbath rest by Galilee!

O calm of hills above, where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of
eternity interpreted by love!

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 My Way's Cloudy – Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Chorus: Oh! brethren, my way, my way's cloudy, my way, go send them angels down. Oh! brethren, my way, my way's cloudy, my way, go send them angels down.

Verse: This is the year of jubilee, send them angels down,
The Lord has come and set us free, o send them angels down.

Chorus:

Verse: Old Satan's mad, and I am glad, send them angels down,
he missed the soul he thought he had, o send them angels down.

Chorus:

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

All good gifts around us come from you, O God.

You have given us life and new life in Christ.

As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts

that we may be gifts to one another and share blessings

beyond our church family through the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

Scripture Readings George Nickless

Psalm 121 (NRSV)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—

from where will my help come?

² My help comes from the LORD,

who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

Matthew 16:13 – 20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ ¹⁴ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ¹⁵ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Sermon “*Jesus Through the Ages*” Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith

Anthem The Gift of Love – arr. Hal H. Hopson (1933)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come spirit come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole, O come, spirit, come let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship, and are freed. Amen

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.

Our Worship this morning is led by Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith, retired pastor of Mass. U.C.C. congregations in East Milton and West Gloucester. In the wider church, she taught Field Education at Yale Divinity School and Andover Newton Theological School and led the area Peer Pastoral Support Committee. Lelly has been active in our congregation, singing in the Choir, and chairing and serving on our Education, Nominating, Mission and Executive Committees. She and her husband George have three children: Singer/Drama Educator, Putnam Smith, Dr. Sarah Gerritz and Rev. Abigail Smith. They have seven grandchildren aging from infant to graduate school.

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!

Thursday Bible Study Luke's Gospel: Straight Talk for Real People Then ... and Now! Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom, starting March 9. 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

First Parish Staff

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978-526-7661 ext. 1

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>

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.

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.

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

[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**, 6:30 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!

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.

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.