



**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 19, 2023  
10:00 AM**

**Prelude** Whispering Hope – Septimus Winner (1827-1905), arr. Jenifer Cook

**Welcome** by Deacon Mark Heslop

**Call to Worship**

Leader: The Good Shepherd seeks us out and calls us by name.

**All: God provides all that we need; still waters when turmoil surrounds us, restoration when we are weary.**

Leader: All around us voices say, “Be afraid. The enemy is everywhere.”

**All: But God’s faithfulness calms our fears, God’s strength is our comfort.**

Leader: Surely God’s goodness and mercy are always with us.

**All: And we are dwelling, even now, in the house of the Lord.**

**Prayer of Invocation** (Unison)

**Oh Christ, our shepherd, we come to worship today to surrender to your loving care. May your word inspire us to look positively toward the future. Help us to dwell in your holy space and trust your blessed companionship. Amen**

**Hymn** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us PH #327

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

**Anthem** Lord of the Dance – Shaker hymn – words by Sydney Carter, arr. John Ferguson

Verse: I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Chorus: Dance then wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he, and I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I’ll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Verse: I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they wouldn't dance, and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; they came with me and the dance went on.

Chorus:

Verse: I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame; the holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and stripped and they hung me high, and left me there on a cross to die.

Chorus:

Verse: I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the devil on your back; they buried my body and they thought I'd gone – But! I am the dance and I still go on. They cut me down and I leaped up high: I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me. I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Chorus:

## **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** Sarabande – G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

#### **Offertory Prayer (Unison)**

**We dedicate these gifts to the work of righteousness and peace. May our offerings be used to promote goodness and mercy in our own lives and in the community touched by our witness. Amen**

**Scripture** Psalm 23 King James Version (Unison) Jeffrey Bodmer-Turner

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**Sermon** “Goodness and Mercy” Rev. Judy Brain

**Solo** Wade in the Water – traditional, arr. Eva Cassidy (1963-1996)  
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Chorus: Wade in the water, wade in the water children. Wade in the water.  
Oh, God’s gonna trouble the water.

Verse: Who’s that young girl dressed in red? Wade in the water. Must be the children that Moses led. God’s gonna trouble the water.

Verse: Who’s that young girl dressed in white? Wade in the water. Must be the children of the Israelite. Oh, God’s gonna trouble the water.

Chorus:

Verse: Who’s that young girl dressed in blue? Wade in the water. Must be the children that’s coming through. God’ gonna trouble the water.

Verse: You don’t believe I’ve been redeemed. Oh, wade in the water. Just seen the Holy Ghost a-looking for me. Oh, God’s gonna trouble the water.

Chorus:

**Hymn** The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not Want PH #84

**Blessing**

**Closing Song** The Lord Bless You and Keep You – John Rutter (1945)

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.

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

**\*Interested in membership? Join us for a brief meeting following worship today.**

**This morning we welcome Rev. Judy Brain, as our Worship Leader.**

Rev. Brain is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School where she was awarded the Billings Prize for Preaching.

Judy served as senior minister at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Lexington for 17 years. A resident of Essex since her retirement, she has continued in ministry as a bridge pastor for churches on the North Shore as well as the Boston suburbs.

In her ministry, a primary focus has been interfaith understanding and social justice. She has worked with many community organizations that promote respect, civility, and peace.

She is an enthusiastic gardener and enjoys swimming, kayaking, jigsaw puzzles, and is a convert to Wordle.

**Our Deacon this morning is Mark Heslop.**

**Our Greeters this morning are Jeffrey and Sandy Bodmer-Turner**

## **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)

**Youth Fellowship** met again for dinner and doings on Sunday, March 12 for food, games, and planning. As we had no takers for our proposed outing to the Ice Castles for February, I would like to extend the invitation for interested youth to attend a screening of Jesus Revolution, now playing in area cinemas!

**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**.

**\*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](mailto:cook.maryellen7@gmail.com) or Allison Moir-Smith at 978-526-1904 or [allison.moir.smith@gmail.com](mailto: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 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!

**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 Staff**

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

**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).

**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.

**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](mailto: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

**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.