



**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, April 16, 2023
10:00 AM**

Prelude Andante Espressivo – Johann Krieger (1651-1735)

Welcome by Nancy Peterson, Deacon

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

We continue celebrating the Resurrection
with our opening hymn.

Hymn The Day of Resurrection NCH #245

Opening Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt,
may we, who have not seen, have faith
and receive the fulness of Christ's blessing,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

Anthem The Crown of Roses - P. I. Tchaikovsky/A. N. Pleshcheyev

When Jesus Christ was yet a child He had a garden small and wild, wherein He cherished roses fair and wove them into garlands there. Now once, as summertime drew nigh, there came a troop of children by, and seeing roses on the tree, with shouts they plucked them merrily. 'Do you bind roses in your hair?' they cried, in scorn, to Jesus there. The boy said humbly: 'Take, I pray, all but the naked thorns away.'

Then of the thorns they made a crown, and with rough fingers pressed it down,
'till on His forehead fair and young, red drops of blood like roses sprung.

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 Prelude in F Sharp – Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Holy God, receive these gifts which we offer in Christ's name.

**Bless them and use them to lift up your heavenly kingdom
to strengthen your church in all places.**

**Guide your church congregation here in Manchester
with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Scripture David Lumsden

Psalm 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.'

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

I have a goodly heritage.

⁷I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;

in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸I keep the LORD always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

my body also rests secure.

¹⁰For you do not give me up to Sheol,

or let your faithful one see the Pit.

¹¹You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Luke 24: 1-12

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Sermon “An Unlikely Story” Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith

Anthem Easter Song – Alan Pote (1945), Luke 24:10

The angel rolled the stone away. ‘Twas on a bright and shiny morn when the trumpet began to sound, the angel rolled the stone away. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Alleluia, Christ is risen! Go tell Mary and Martha; go tell Peter and John.

Go tell all the disciples, that Christ is risen! Jesus, He was killed on a Friday;
Jesus, He lay buried and dead; Jesus, He arose on the third day.
He rose upon into heaven, just like He said. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Brother,
won't you ever believe me, sister, do you think it's a lie, listen while I tell you a
story – if you believe in Jesus, then you'll never die. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Hymn Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain NCH #230

Blessing

Closing Song Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God) – Zulu Song,
arr. Doreen Rao

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 Deacon this morning is Nancy Peterson.

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.

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

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.

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>

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>

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

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

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

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

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.

Thursday Bible Study From the new Leader, Elsa Marshall –

Hello all. My name is Elsa Marshall and I am looking forward to meeting with you on Zoom, Thursday April 20th at 4pm. The church office will send you the link.

Your devoted moderator shared that you have been gathering together through the ravages and alienation of Covid's pandemic as churches closed doors and opened the portals of zoom and hybrid worship.

You have also weathered the loss of a pastor which is a difficult task for many bible study groups as well. Congratulations! You are indeed good and faithful servants....

This year's Lenten journey has ended. However, Easter does not end on Easter Sunday but continues for fifty days until Pentecost. We are each, as "people on the way", called to live as Easter people living in the story that started under the bright stars in a stable at Bethlehem, moved into the darkness that shrouded Christ on the cross, as we now encounter an empty cross and tomb. As I look ahead, the upcoming Eastertide Lectionary Scriptures celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the sayings and teachings Jesus gifts us as his followers. I look forward to exploring the meaning and mystery in the bible and the insights and learnings that we will share with one another.

On April 20th, I am hoping to begin to get to know you. I will be asking what you have enjoyed about being part of this ongoing Bible study as well as how we will proceed together. I wish to respect and honor that this is your bible study community which has and is enriching your lives. I am grateful to be facilitating bible study with you as we journey into Eastertide together.

May Easter joy continually be something we live into and all that we live with as a bible studying covenantal community within the First Parish, Congregational of Manchester by the Sea.

Shalom, Elsa Marshall, CMCE Minister of Faith Formation FCC Hanover

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.

Our Online Prayer Wall Give it a try! Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. Feel more connected to the Joys and Concerns of our congregation and hear what's on each other's hearts. You will be touched to receive notifications every time someone prays for you.

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

The **Seaside Parish Knitters** meet each 1st and 3rd 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, April 24, 6:30 PM at Wendy Hiller Clark's home, 18A Kennedy Road Magnolia. RSVP to Wendy for planning purposes at 978-500-9039. "Black Cake" by Charmaine Wilkerson will be discussed.

Monday, May 26, 6:30 PM at Mary Ellen Cook's home, 23 Harold St. Manchester. RSVP to Mary Ellen Wendy for planning purposes at 978-500-0018. "Lesson in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus will be discussed.

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.

The Stephen Ministry at First Parish Launches April 17 -We are pleased to announce that the Stephen Ministry at First Parish will have its organizational meeting on Monday, April 17, at the church. Two of us will have completed the 25-hour online leadership training courses with the headquarters in St. Louis, and a broader group has been 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. 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 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. There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability, so if you think you might be interested, email 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 April for hospitals - Sheets, Blankets and Sweatsuits

The Spring Drive of The Global Refugee Mission of New England (Runs until June 24)

Assorted Sewing Fabrics and 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