



**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 23, 2023  
The Third Sunday of Easter  
10:00 AM**

**Prelude** Reverie – Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

**Welcome** by John Feuerbach, Deacon

**Hymn** Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! NCH #129

**Call to Worship**

Come, children of God, to sing a new song; clap your hands and shout for joy.

**Jesus Christ is our Good News, our joy, and our salvation.**

In steadfast love and faithfulness, God has done marvelous things.

**God raised Jesus from the dead; Christ is alive and at work among us.**

God hears our prayers and answers when we call.

**God makes us dwell in safety and puts joy in our hearts.**

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

**Anthem** With a Voice of Singing – Martin Shaw (1875 – 1958)

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honour of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Alleluia.

Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

**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** Great is Thy Faithfulness – Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960), arr.

Greg Howlett

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

## **Offertory Prayer (Unison)**

**God of righteousness, God of mercy: We have been called to live in reverent fear – not a fear that immobilizes, but a fear that empowers us because we know how much is at stake. We know there are implication for what we do and what we don't do. Dedicate the gifts we give this morning to do the things your heart longs for your church to do. We pray in the name of our risen savior, Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Scripture Luke 24:13-35, Liz Loomis**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' <sup>19</sup> He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb

and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’<sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!’<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## **Sermon “Seeing What We Have Never Seen Before!”**

**Rev. Dr. David L. VanArsdale**

**Anthem** Plenty Good Room – traditional, arr. Maags

Plenty good room in my Father’s Kingdom, so choose your seat and sit down. I would not be a liar. I’ll tell you the reason why: ‘cause if my Lord should call me up, I wouldn’t be ready to die. No, I wouldn’t be ready to die. Oh, there’s plenty good room in y Father’s kingdom, so choose your seat and sit down. I would not be a gambler. I’ll tell you the reason why: ‘cause if my Lord should call me up, I wouldn’t be ready to die. No, I wouldn’t be ready to die. Plenty good room in my Father’s Kingdom, so choose your seat and sit down.

**Hymn** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today NCH #240

**Blessing**

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

**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.

**Our Deacon this morning is John Feuerbach.**

**Our Reader and Greeter is Liz Loomis.**

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.

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.

## **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)

**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).

**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**.

**Thursday Bible Study with Elsa Marshall 4 PM** Join in a lively discussion, Thursdays, 4 PM, on Zoom. The link to join is sent each Thursday morning. Questions contact [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com).

## **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).

## **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.

**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. Tomorrow, 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.

**The Stephen Ministry** 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](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.

**Fair by the Sea?** A few church members are brainstorming to bring a Fair by the Sea to First Parish, during the Festival by the Sea, on Saturday, August 5. It would feature vendors who resell vintage wares in the Chapel Hall, the world-famous Jewelry Table, a fabulously fun Children's Room and possibly the wildly popular White Elephant sale! If you have an idea or a table that you would like to add to this strictly for fun event, please speak to Bethany or Nancy K.