



**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 30, 2023
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
10:00 AM**

Prelude Nimrod, from 'Enigma Variations' – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Welcome by Nancy Peterson, Deacon

Hymn Jesus Shall Reign NCH #300

Call to Worship

Come, let us dwell in God's shelter. Let us dwell in God's work of art.

Come, because the Earth is the Lord's, And God's Earth is our home.

We live in God's World; we are not alone.

We share this life with the heavens and the earth,

With the waters and the land, with trees and grasses,

with fish, birds, and animals, with minerals and creatures of every form,

And with all our brothers and sisters. God is good and everything God makes is good.

God is love and everything God makes is love's fruit.

Let us worship God!

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

(Children will leave for Sunday School after)

Anthem As Torrents in Summer – Edward Elgar

As Torrents in summer, half dried in their channels, suddenly rise though the sky is still cloudless; for rain has been falling far off at their fountains. So hearts that are fainting grow full to o'erflowing; and they that behold it marvel and know not; that God at their fountains far off, has been raining!

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 El Shaddai – Michael Card (1957), John Thompson (1950)

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, we will praise and lift you high, El Shaddai. Through your love and through the ram, You saved the son of Abraham; through the power of your hand, turned the sea into dry land.

To the outcast on her knees, You were the God who really sees, and by your might, You set your children free. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, we will praise and lift you high, El Shaddai.

Through the years you've made it clear, that the time of Christ was near, Though the people couldn't see what Messiah ought to be. Though your word contained the plan, they just could not understand Your most awesome work was done

through the frailty of your Son. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai,

I will praise you 'till I die, El Shaddai. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, I will praise you 'till I die. El Shaddai.

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. Amen.

Scripture John 10:1-10 Paul Lengieza

¹ ‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Sermon “Fear and Fundamentalism” Rev. Dr. David L. VanArsdale

Anthem For the Beauty of the Earth – John Rutter (1945)

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and trees and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given, graces human and divine flowers of earth and buds of heav’n: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise.

Hymn All Creatures of Our God and King NCH #17

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 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.

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.

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

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.

Kids' Fun Fair!

May 13, Saturday afternoon between 1-3:30, children, under the age of 10 are invited to participate in a Kids' Fun Fair! Games and prizes, art, and food, and even a ride or two will be offered to our community families in celebration of Manchester's sensational summertime! No money is needed but a food donation for The Open Door is requested for admission to the fair, located at 1 Chapel Ln. Join us for a few hours of pure fun! **Tell your neighbors and friends, bring your kids and grandkids!**

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.

Summer Program announcements:

Breakfast Buddies: Heroic Women of Faith

Designed for a team of an adult and toddler, Breakfast Buddies meets from 8-9:30 each day for one week, July 17 -21. This year we will meet 5 heroic and iconic women from the Bible who played a vital role in the Christian story. Each session features a themed breakfast, three or more activities, an art experience, and a special surprise! The program is free of charge and preregistration is required.

The First Parish Third Annual Art Show, "Simplicity, Serenity and Sanctuary", will be open for visitors July 23-29 with art being accepted in five age categories, beginning July,15. Submissions can be of any medium and any size. Artists aged 3-199 are encouraged to submit. Art will be judged, and prizes awarded in First and Second place in each category! Get out your crayons and explore the joy creating art can provide!

Our Bible Experiences week, (otherwise known as VBS) will run August 14-18 from 4-7 pm. Dinner will be served to participants ages 6-12, when they register for “Safe and Secure: Dressed In Armor”. Each session will offer story, music, movement, art, mindfulness exercises, games and creative writing. Youth ages 14-16 may apply to attend as junior counselors and adult volunteers are needed. Preregistration is required.

Contact Jeanne Westcott, Dir. of Youth and Childrens Ministries, First Parish with questions at 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/

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/paytogether/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.

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.

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.

Monday, May 29, 6:30 PM at Mary Ellen Cook's home, 23 Harold St. Manchester. RSVP to Mary Ellen for planning purposes at 978-500-0018. "Lesson in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus will be discussed. Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results. But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo. Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist. *goodreads*

Monday, June 26, 6:30 PM at Liz Loomis' home, 34 Bennett St. Manchester. RSVP to Liz for planning purposes at loomisliz@hotmail.com "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks will be discussed. A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history. Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack. New York City, 1954, Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance. Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse—one studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success. *goodreads*

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 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