



**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
Easter Worship, April 9, 2023
10:00 AM

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

Anxiety and fear are what we know best in this fantastic century of ours. Wars and rumors of wars. From civilization itself to what seemed the most unalterable values of the past, everything is threatened or already in ruins. We have heard so much tragic news that when the news is good we cannot hear it. But the proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well but as one who has faced the cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, God's will, not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. God's life and our lives through God, in God. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord has risen.

--William Buechner

Prelude Recitative and Aria: Behold, I tell You a Mystery/The Trumpet Shall Sound (from 'The Messiah') – G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Paul Knox, solo, Kevin Tracy, trumpet

The trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible. And we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption. And this mortal must put on immortality.

Welcome by Deacon

The Easter Proclamation

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.

The Lord is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

The Lord is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

Hymn Christ the Lord Is Risen Today NCH #233

Anthem The Storm is Passing Over – Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933), arr. Barbara W. Baker

Have courage my soul and let us journey on. Though the night is dark and I am far from home. Thanks be to God – the morning light appears! The storm is passing over – Hallelu. Hallelujah, the storm is passing over!

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 The Call (from '5 Mystical Songs') – Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath:

Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love.

Prayer of Dedication Unison

Dear Lord, we thank you for your goodness in our lives. As we give our tithes and offerings, we recognize your generosity in our lives. You are a giving God. You are a God who blesses, and our lives are all blessed by you. Thank you, Holy God, for giving us financial blessings. We thank you for the physical and mental strength that you provide so that we can all perform our best in our jobs, businesses, and ministries. O God, we praise and thank you. Amen.

Scripture Readings Fran Bachman

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹ O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.

² Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

¹⁵ The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

¹⁷ I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸ The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD:

²⁰ This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter.

²¹ I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

²² The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Matthew 28:1-10

¹ In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

³ His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

⁴ And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

⁵ And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

⁶ He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

⁷ And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

⁸ And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

⁹ And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

¹⁰ Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Sermon “*Removing the Stones of Life*” Rev. Dr. David L. VanArsdale

Anthem Easter Anthem – William Billings (1746-1800)

Hallelujah! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. Hallelujah! And did He rise? Hear it, ye nations! Hear it, O ye dead! He rose, He burst the bars of death and triumphed over the grave. Then I rose, then first humanity triumphant passed the crystal ports of light, and seized Eternal Youth. Man all immortal hail. Heaven all lavish of strange gifts to man. Thine’s all the glory, man’s the boundless bliss.

Hymn Yours Is the Glory NCH #253

Blessing

Closing Song Hallelujah! (from ‘The Messiah’) – G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and of His Christ. And He shall reign for ever and ever. King of kings (Forever and ever, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!) and Lord of lords (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!) And He shall reign forever and ever. Hallelujah!

Flowers this morning donated by Liz Loomis: Happy Easter to all!

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.

We welcome our guest musicians this morning: Kevin Tracy, and Emily Dunbar, trumpet, and Mark Wolinski, timpani.

Our Deacons this morning are Nancy Peterson and John Feuerbach.

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

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

First Parish Staff

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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 on Thursdays at 4 PM on Zoom. We are so grateful to Rev. Van Arsdale for stepping in to lead a Lenten Bible Study course, which ended on Maundy Thursday. He has graciously agreed to be available to us again down the road if we continue to need Bible Study leaders. We are currently in talks with a pastor (referred to us by Rev. Judy Brain) who is interested in working with the participants of Bible Study to develop a challenging and engaging next Bible Study class. We will be confirming the details soon with the hope that the first, introductory session will be Thursday, April 13. She has a couple of ideas for interactive formats to share with participants and was intrigued to hear about the self-led (using the Daily Word as a starting point) sessions that took place. She is looking forward to brainstorming. 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!

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

Thank you to all who donated Easter Lilies or to the Deacon Fund for the Easter Celebration. If you donated a plant, you are invited to take it with you after the service. If you leave it the Deacons will give it to a member to brighten their day.

In memory of Cheryl Jones & Dick Enberg Harold Jones and Barbara Enberg

In memory of Borea Kim Youngram Kim

In memory of Willard & Barbara Simmons, Wendell & Ellyn Smith
Richard and Barbara Smith

In memory of Larry L. Larsen, Uncle Jake Citta, June Nickless
Jolene & Kate Larsen

In memory of Robert W. Graul Jr. and Edith Graul Robert Graul

In memory of Bill Houghton and Gene & Elaine Shrimpton
The Shrimpton and Houghton Families

In honor of Nancy Hammond Beryl Cox

In memory of David Crosby, Virginia Hug The Crosby Family

In memory of our Loved Ones Mary and David Lumsden

In memory of Wayne, Mom & Dad Jan Marshall

*In memory of Violet Tracey, Joe Constant, Robert, Gloria & Marion Driscoll,
Henrietta Burnett, Lee & Fred Peterson* Paul Driscoll and Nancy Peterson

In memory of my parents, Herbert and Adele Schulte Muriel Parker

In memory of our Mothers Jeanne and Paul Knox

In loving memory of Carol Schanley Darwin Schanley and family

In memory of my parents, Eugene and Marie Kasper
Tom and Lynnée Lance and Family

In memory of my parents, Paul and Leatrice Lord Nancy Klebart