



**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, Mother's Day
May 14, 2023, 10 AM

Prelude Prelude and Fugue in C – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome by Janet Groth, Deacon

Call to Worship from Romans 12:9-13

One: Come, mothers, fathers, single, divorced, young and old, all people!

All: For God shows no partiality.

One: Let love be genuine.

All: Hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.

One: Love one another with mutual affection.

All: Rejoice in hope. Be patient in suffering.

One: Persevere in prayer. Extend hospitality to the stranger.

All: Jesus said, "This is my commandment: Love one another." We come to worship the God who is love, that we may learn to love one another.

Hymn Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls NCH #383

Presentation of the Mother's Day Flowers Allison Moir-Smith

Blessing of the Flowers (Unison)

God of sun and rain, light and shadow, surf and sand, we are reminded of your artistry as we behold this stunning array of flowers before us – every one its own form and color just as we too are our own unique being. We pray your blessing on each person that is represented by these blossoms and give thanks in turn, for the blessings they have bestowed upon us. We are grateful for the way our lives have been shaped by these mothering figures and send a silent "thank you" to them for their kindness, challenges, support, and love. Amen

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

Children will leave for Sunday school classrooms following.

Anthems

If Ye Love Me – Philip Wilby (1949)

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Fathert, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; e'en the Spirit of Truth. And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

Awake, My Soul, and Sing – Allen Pote (1945 – 2010) text: based on Psalms 71 & 108

Awake, my soul, and sing; arise and sing a psalm. For great are you, Lord, and great your love; Your kindness is forever .You have been my hope, my confidence since my youth. I will proclaim your marvelous deeds. I will ever sing praises. Even when I am growing old, do not forsake me, O God. I will declare your strength and power to the next generation, to all who are to come. Awake, my soul, and sing; arise and sing a psalm. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, your glory over all the earth. You have been my rock, my fortress, and my shield. I will ever praise your name, for you are my God. Awake, my soul, and sing. Arise and sing a psalm. For great are you, Lord, and great your love. You are my God! Awake, my soul, and sing!

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 Graceful Ghost Rag – William Bolcom (1938)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

We dedicate to you, O God of love and compassion, a portion of our money for the work of the church, words of grace for people who hurt, and all of our lives for service to your beloved creation. Amen

Scripture Colossians 3:12-17 The Message Vivian Argento

¹²⁻¹⁴ So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

Sermon “Wearing Love” Rev. Judy Brain

Solo A Flower Is a Lovesome Thing – Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967); arr. Herman Weiss

Rebecca Shrimpton. Solo

A flower is a lovesome thing, a luscious living lovesome thing; a daffodil, a rose, no matter where it grows is such a lovely lovesome thing. A flower is the heart of spring that makes the rolling hillside sing – the gentle winds that blow, blow gently for they know; a flower is a lovesome thing. Playing in the breeze, swaying with the trees; in the silent night or in the morning light - such a miracle. Azaleas drinking pale moonbeams, gardenias floating through daydreams - wherever it may grow, no matter where you go - a flower is a lovesome thing. Playing in the breeze, swaying with the trees; in the silent night or in the morning light – such a miracle. Azaleas drinking pale moonbeams, gardenias floating through daydreams - wherever it may grow, no matter where you go – a flower is a lovesome thing. (tag) In the silent night, in the morning light.

Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling NCH #43

Blessing

Closing Song God Bless You and Keep You – Jay Althouse (1951)

God bless you and keep you wherever you may go; His love be a constant companion. God lead you and guide you and be at your side. God bless you and keep you forever.

This morning we welcome Guest Minister, is Rev. Judy Brain. Rev. Brain is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School where she was awarded the Billings Prize for Preaching. She served as senior minister at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Lexington for 17 years and recently as a bridge pastor for several churches.

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.

As a leader in the Pastoral Excellence Program for the Mass. Conference, UCC, Judy facilitates groups for clergy who gather for collegial support and sharing best practices.

Judy lives in Essex, MA with her husband, Joe and enjoys the company of their grandchildren, gardening, swimming, kayaking, reading, and puzzles.

Our Deacon this morning is Janet Groth.

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.

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 Children's 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/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 x1

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. 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 May Sunscreen, Foot Powder, Deodorant

The American Legion is hosting a “Packing Party” for Operation Troop Support

on Saturday, May 20. Donations and volunteers are needed, 10 AM at the

American Legion Hall. Items needed are cookies, candies, sweets,

crossword/puzzle books, playing cards, electronic games DVDs, videos,

microwave popcorn. Dry fruits and nuts, hard candy, beef jerky. Sunscreen,

foot powder, deodorant, flip flops, shower wash, razors, and toiletries.

Powdered drink mixes – Gatorade, iced tea, lemonade. Instant breakfast, cereal

and oatmeal, soup. Disposable cameras, writing materials, calling cards, coffee,

tea, sugar, creamer, and crackers. For hospitals - blankets, pillows, T-shirts,

underwear, twin sheets, blankets and sweat suits. Monetary donations to help

with shipping also welcome. Drop items at the Legion or at the Chapel Hall!

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	Post-its	Envelopes	Hole punchers, Staplers
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		