



**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, May 7, 2023
10:00 AM**

Prelude Bedeck Yourself, O Dear Soul – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Welcome by Janet Groth, Deacon

Call to Worship

This day is like no other day that has ever been, or ever will be.

Each one of us is like no other who has been or ever will be.

Come together in silence,

take time to appreciate this moment

Look with wonder upon the faces of all who gather here in God's name.

Come to God's house to learn what God's will is for this unique day, for each unique soul.

Prayer of Invocation

One: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

All: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

One: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

All: Take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

One: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

All: O how abundant is your goodness that you have laid up for those who fear you, and accomplished for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of everyone!

One: In the shelter of your presence you hide them from human plots; you hold them safe under your shelter from contentious tongues.

All: Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was beset as a city under siege.

Hymn When Morning Gilds the Skies #86 NCH

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

Children will stay for the worship service, activities are provided.

Anthem O Clap Your Hands – Gordon Young (1919-1998)

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible; He is a great King o'er all the earth.
God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Great and merciful God,

We confess to you that we have wandered from your ways.

We have followed too much, and too often, our own desires.

We have transgressed against your laws that Jesus taught us.

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and done those things we ought not to have done.

Have mercy on us, spare us when we confess our faults.

Restore us when we repent.

We trust your infinite love shown to us through Jesus,
so that we may live sober, righteous, and loving lives
proclaiming you in a fallen world.

Words of Assurance

One: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;

The past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Passing the Peace

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 At the River - Charles Ives (1874-1954)/Robert Lowry

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? - gather at the river! Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river. Yes, we'll gather at the river that flows by the throne of God. Shall we gather? - shall we gather at the river?

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

God,

We present these offerings

that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.

With these gifts we offer our varied ministries.

In the days ahead, may we be a joyful company, as we answer Jesus' call to serve a suffering world.

Amen

Scripture Reading Acts 7:55-60 Fran Bachman

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Sermon "I Can't Hear You" Rev. Teri Motley

Anthem In My Father's House – Pepper Choplin (1957)

The disciples drew closer, to hear the words of promise of the Lord: if you hear the truth I say and follow in My way, the great will be your heavens' reward, and He said: In my Father's house there are many mansions, in my Father's house there is room; and all who believe shall come to live with Me; for in my Father's house I'll prepare a place for you. Let not your hearts be troubled: believe in God, believe now in Me; for if you will believe in Heaven you will see the glory of the great 'I am', and He said: In my Father's house there are many mansions, in my Father's house there is room; and all who believe shall come to live with Me; for in my Father's house I'll prepare a place for you. I will always be with you. Through every step you'll never walk alone. And when your earthly days are over I will come again to welcome you home. I tell you: In my Father's house there are many mansions, in my Father's house there is room; and all who believe shall come to live with Me; for in my Father's house I'll prepare a place for you. In my Father's house there is room.

Service of Communion

Communion Prayer

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give to God our thanks and praise.

People: It is right to give thanks to our Creator.

Leader: O Holy One, We praise you for creating us and all that is.

We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and the preaching of the prophets, We thank you that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, to be born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share our common lot, and to accept suffering and the pain of death.

People: We rejoice that in victory over the grave, you raised Jesus Christ with power to rule all things. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church, through which your work is done in the world, and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

Leader: With the faithful in every place and time, we praise you with joy, saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy.

God of love and majesty.

The whole universe testifies to your glory,

O God, Most High.

Prayer of Consecration
Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine
Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: We thank you God, for inviting us to this table,
where we have known the presence of Christ and have
received Christ's gifts.**

**Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and let us testify to your love in our lives and words:
Through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

Hymn Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing #77 NCH

Commissioning and Benediction

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, Rev. Teri Motley.

Rev. Teri Motley was raised in Minnesota, in a family which she describes as “strict atheist”. Coming East to college, she moved with her first husband to Springfield Vermont, where she lived for over 20 years. In that time, she began her faith journey when she attended a UCC church, and then attended divinity school first in Bangor Maine, and then finishing her Masters in Divinity degree at Andover Newton Theological School, in Newton Massachusetts.

Moving with her second husband to Nahant, she was supported in her journey to ordination by the Nahant Village Church. She has served churches in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. She enjoys preaching and supporting the church in any way she can.

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.

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 the Chapel. Tell your neighbors and friends, bring your kids and grandkids and join us for a few hours of pure fun!

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/paytothecharity?charity=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 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		