



**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, Communion June 4, 2023 10 AM**

Prelude Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (with Be Thou My Vision)
– Robert Robinson (1735 – 1790), arr. Linda Hartman

Welcome by Paul Gudonis, Deacon

Call to Worship

L: O Lord, our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth!

P: Your glory is chanted above the heavens by the mouths of babes and infants.

L: When I look at the heavens,

P: the work of God's hands, the moon and the stars which God has established;

L: What are human beings that God is mindful of us?

P: Yet God has made us little less than God, and crowned us with glory and honor.

L: Gather in the name of the three In One to worship and adore!

Hymn I Sing the Mighty Power of God NCH #12

Prayer of Invocation Rev. Motley

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

Children will stay in church, activities will be provided.

Anthem Bless the Lord, O My Soul – Mikail M. Ippolitov-Ivanov (1859-1935)

Bless the Lord, O My Soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Bless the Lord, O My Soul, and all that is within me bless His Holy name.

He is full of compassion and mercy, long suffering and great in goodness.

He will not always be chiding nor keepeth He, His wrath forever.

Bless the Lord, O My Soul, and all that is within me bless His Holy name.

O blessed art Thou, O Lord.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

L: Let us confess our sins before God and one another

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
By what we have done
And by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, so that we
may delight in your will
And follow in your ways.

Amen

(Silence)

Words of Assurance

L: 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

Invitation to the Offering

Meditation The Light that is Felt – Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

A tender child of summers three, at night, while seeking her little bed,
pause on the dark stair timidly, Oh, mother take my hand, said she,
and then the dark will be all light. We older children grope our way from dark
behind to dark before; and only when our hands we lay in Thine, O God! The
night is day, then the night is day, and there is darkness nevermore.

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Merciful and gracious God,

Creator of heaven and earth , of space and time,

Of whose bounty we have all received

Accept, we pray, this offering of your people.

Remember in your love those who have brought it

And those for whom it is given,

And so follow it with your bl3ssing

**That it may promote peace and good will among all people and nations,
advancing the reign of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Doxology

Scripture Reading Martha Farmer

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.⁶ And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' ²⁹ God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. ^{4a} In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Sermon "Understanding Infinity" Rev. Teri Motley

Anthem Built on a Rock the Church Shall Stand – Dale Wood

(1934 – 2003)

Built on a Rock the Church shall stand, even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, bells still are chiming and calling – calling
the young and old to rest, calling the souls of those distressed, longing for life
everlasting. Not in our temples made with hands – God, the almighty, is
dwelling. High in the heav'ns His temple stands, all earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above deigns abide with us in love, making our
bodies His temple. We are God's house of living stones, built for His own
habitation; He fills our hearts, His humble thrones, granting us life and
salvation. Were two or three to seek His face, He in their midst would show His
grace, blessings upon them be stowing. Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing, many may come to hear God's word
where this promise is bringing: I know my own, my own know me; You, not
the world, my face shall see, my peace I leave with you. Amen

Prayer Intentions

Pastoral and Silent Prayers.

Prayers of Joys and Concerns

L: Gracious and mysterious God, we live in anxious times. The good we knew
seems to be slipping away. The voices of greed and anger grow ever louder. We
see violence and turmoil throughout the world, with growing hunger and
desperation. What does the future hold for us, and for those whom we hold
dear?

We turn to you for reassurance, for hope, not just for those far away, but for
our loved ones close to home.

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

**We grieve with those who have suffered loss, and we pray that you will
comfort them and to help us find the words and deeds to support them.**

All: O Lord, hear our prayer

**We call on you to heal the sick in body and mind, to save the addicted and
nurture the disabled.**

Especially we pray for....

O Lord, hear our prayer

(Silent meditation)

All that we have asked, we have asked in the name of your Son, the one who
taught us to pray.....Our Father, who art in Heaven...

Service of Communion

Invitation

Leader: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on the same day, sat at table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

People: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south and gather around Christ's table.

Leader: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ, and to share in the community of God's people.

God be with you

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to God.

Communion Prayer Response

Leader: Christ has died.

All: Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Words of Institution

Blessing of the Elements

Breaking bread and pouring wine

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Bountiful God,

We give you thanks

That you have refreshed us at your table,

By granting us the presence of Christ.

Strengthen our faith,

Increase our love for one another,

And send us into this green blooming day,

With hope, courage, and faith,

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Hymn I Come with Joy NCH #349

Blessing

Closing Song God Be with You – Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)
God be with you 'till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you, with
His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'till we meet again.

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.

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 Paul Gudonis.

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.

You can contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge @PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester

Fair by the Sea? If you want to join in - this strictly for fun event - come have coffee and goodies, hear what's going on, **Saturday, June 10 at 10 AM** in the Chapel Conference Room. A few church members are brainstorming to bring a Fair by the Sea (lite) back to First Parish, during the Festival by the Sea, Sat., August 5. It would feature a Rummage Sale, the world-famous Jewelry table, a Homemade treats table, a Hand Craft table. Other possibilities are vendors who resell vintage wares and a Themed Basket auction.

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.

[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

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.

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.

Questions can be sent to Jeanne at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com.

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.

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 (June 1 & 15) 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, July 10, 6:30 PM (note the change in date for the summer!) 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*

Monday, August 28, 6:30 PM place TBD Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder will be discussed. In Rough Sleepers, Tracy Kidder shows how one person can make a difference, as he tells the story of Dr. Jim O’Connell, a man who invented ways to create a community of care for a city’s unhoused population, including those who sleep on the streets—the “rough sleepers.” When Jim O’Connell graduated from Harvard Medical School and was nearing the end of his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, the chief of medicine made a

proposal: Would he defer a prestigious fellowship and spend a year helping to create an organization to bring health care to homeless citizens? Jim took the job because he felt he couldn't refuse. But that year turned into his life's calling. Tracy Kidder spent five years following Dr. O'Connell and his colleagues as they served their thousands of homeless patients. In this book, we travel with O'Connell as he navigates the city, offering medical care, socks, soup, empathy, humor, and friendship to some of the city's most vulnerable citizens. He emphasizes a style of medicine in which patients come first, joined with their providers in what he calls "a system of friends." *goodreads*

The Stephen Ministry. 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 June, July, August -Powdered drink mixes- Gatorade, iced tea, lemonade, Dry fruits & nuts, Hard candy, Beef Jerky, Flip Flops, Shower wash, Razors and toiletries

- 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