



**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  
July 2, 2023, 9 AM  
The Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**Prelude** Heliotrope Bouquet – Louis Chauvin (1881-1908) and Scott Joplin (1868-1917)

**Welcome by Deacon**

**Call to Worship**

The love of God is more splendid than purple mountain majesties.

**God's word of grace fills the spacious skies.**

The amber waves of grain remind us of God's abundant care.

**Above the fruited plain is God's eternal joy in anyone**

**who turns from sin and follows the path of truth.**

In every nation, in every heart, God is working for good.

**Let our songs rise, and let God's praise be heard from sea to shining sea.**

**Hymn** Eternal Father, Strong to Save PH #429

**Solo** You're a Grand Old Flag – George M. Cohan (1878-1942)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

**Prayer Intentions**

**Time of Spoken Prayer**

**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** God Bless America – Irving Berlin (1888-1989)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Verse: While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance to a land that's free. Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, as we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

Chorus: God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her through the night with the light from above. From the mountains to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam: God bless America, my home sweet home; God bless America, my home sweet home.

**Prayer of Dedication**

**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 Reading Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 Paul Lengieza**

<sup>16</sup> ‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

<sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

**Sermon “Rest for the Weary Soul” Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale**

## **Solo My Tribute – Andrae Crouch (1942-2015)**

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

How can I give thanks for the things You have done for me? Things so undeserved , yet You give to prove Your love for me. The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude; all that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee. To God be the glory; to God be the glory, to God be the Glory for the things He has done. With His blood He has saved me, with his pow'r He has raised me, to God be the glory for the things He has done. Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing Lord to Thee; and should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary. With His blood He has saved me, with His pow'r He has raised me. To God be the glory for the things He has done.

**Hymn** Just as I Am NCH #207

## **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.

**Please join us for coffee after the worship service!**

**Our Deacons this morning are Barbara Smith and Liz Loomis.**

**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 now serving as the Chair of the Council on Aging for North Andover.

**Musical Note:** [Irving Berlin](#) wrote 'God Bless America' while serving in the U.S. Army at [Camp Upton](#) in [Yaphank, New York](#) at the end of [World War I](#), but he decided that it did not fit in a [revue](#) called [Yip Yip Yaphank](#) - so he set it aside. **Kate Smith**, one of the great singers of her day, asked for a new number for her radio show. The year was 1938, and she was looking for something fresh to mark the 20th anniversary of the end of the Great War - what would later be

called World War I. Irving Berlin had composer's block. Berlin felt the urgency to deliver. He had recently returned from Europe, where catastrophe was brewing. Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, was growing more powerful and aggressive and seemed to be preparing for war. But Berlin wasn't focused on writing a get-America-ready-for-war song. He wanted to create something to celebrate America as a special place to live. Then he remembered a song he had drafted years earlier. He pulled out an old trunk and dusted off a 20-year-old manuscript. He implemented a few revisions to the lyrics (to acknowledge changes politically and in world events). Two weeks later Ms. Smith presented the premiere. All royalties from God Bless America were donated to the Boys and Girls Foundation of America.

### **Altar Flowers**

With gardens and yards now in bloom, please consider creating an arrangement for the FPCC altar...it does not need to be large or tall...and can be as simple as you wish...just from your yard would be a beautiful gift to share.  
Call Penny Lapham 978-526-7128.

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](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com), 978-526-7661 ext. 1.

The Trustees are looking for a queen bed and mattress for the Parsonage. Please contact John Round if you can help 978-902-3913.

**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](mailto:office.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>

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

Our FPCC **Compassion child**, Chepkirwok always needs supporters, [sign up now](#). Questions can be directed to Sue Parker, [sueparker33@aol.com](mailto:sueparker33@aol.com).

Use the links below to **learn more about First Parish Church** online  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/](http://www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/)  
Instagram [www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/](http://www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/)  
Website [www.firstparishchurch.org/](http://www.firstparishchurch.org/)  
YouTube Worship Services  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvfURhmsH8lfE13FLaRtWcw-pOTC9T2h>



First Parish will be holding a **Fair by the Sea** with a rummage sale during the Festival by the Sea, Sat. Aug. 5, 10 AM – 4 PM. Along with our sale we are offering the opportunity for vintage vendors to purchase tablespace. We are looking for **themed basket raffle items**. Examples – a children's book basket, wine basket, summer toys basket, beach day basket, tea basket, new baby basket...

We are looking for **jewelry items** for our Famous Jewelry Table! Drop at the Chapel or give to Martha Elder or Sue Parker.

We are looking for **baked goods and homemade crafts/goods**.

The CACC Festival by the Sea is a wonderful opportunity for all to come and enjoy our community and we are excited to offer this contribution. If you would like to participate by providing something for the Fair, helping to sell, or one of the many ways to participate check out our Sign Up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-fair>

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

### **First Parish Staff**

Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music, [hweiss05@comcast.net](mailto:hweiss05@comcast.net)

Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

[jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com)

Nancy Klebart, Office Manager, [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com), 978-526-7661 x1

**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/>

## **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.

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)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-sunday2>  
or contact Richard Smith at richard.w.smith@gmail.com.

**Don't forget our collections for the community this summer! 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

**Thank you to everyone who donated to the Global Refugee Mission!** We collected tents, sleeping bags, bedding, art supplies and a huge amount of sewing and knitting supplies, which were delivered to St. John's Episcopal church to be included in their shipment abroad. **We will not be accepting any further donations at this time.**

## **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](mailto:jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com).

The **Seaside Parish Knitters** meets **Friday, July 14 & Friday, August 11** this summer at the Chapel, from 10-noon. 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.

**The Stephen Ministry.** There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability. 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.