



**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
June 25, 2023, 10 AM
Worship by the Sea ~ Honoring the Earth

To live, we must daily break the body and shed the blood of Creation. When we do this knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently, it is a sacrament. When we do it ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, destructively, it is a desecration.

~ Wendell Berry

Prelude Bagpipe Selections – Charlotte Chane

Welcome by John Feuerbach, Deacon

Responsive Call to Worship Adapted from a Native American Blessing

One: Beauty surrounds us;

All: The greening of the earth, the budding of hope, the rivers of delight.

One: Beauty is all around us;

All: The dance of light on the ocean waves, the magnificent sunsets hung in the skies.

One: Beauty is within us;

All: A love for others that grows and a deep compassion that flows.

One: All is created in beauty.

All: All is finished in beauty.

One: We walk in the radiance of the Creator.

All: Our voices resound with songs of praise.

Hymn God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (insert)

Prayer of Confession and Reconciliation

God of wonder, God of delight, you created stars sparkling in a dark sky, sunrises and sunsets that take our breath away, whales and dolphins that dance among the waves, hawks that soar, and lizards that scoot.

God of wonder and delight, forgive us when we lose our sense of mystery. May we never grow tired of smelling a flower or looking at the heavens. Wondrous God of Creation, keep us aware of our holy connection. Let us walk lightly on this sacred earth.

Words of Assurance

Leader: Blessed are those who repent, for they shall be freed to live fully by the grace of God. In gratitude for this blessing, let us pray the prayer of Jesus that reminds us of what we really need

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.

Anthem Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ – Jamaican Folk Melody, arr. Bradley Ellingboe

Jacklyn Dentino, flute; Russell Lane, conga drum

Verse: Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Chorus: Jesus lives again earth can breathe again pass the word around: loaves abound!

Verse: Christ is able to make us one, at the table He sets the tone, Teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

Chorus:

Verse: Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!

Chorus (3X)

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

Prayer Intentions

Time of Spoken Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Meditation Jesus, King of Angels – Fernando Ortega (1957)

Jim Brennan, solo

Jesus, King of angels, Heaven's light, shine your face upon this house tonight.
Let no evil come into my dreams. Light of Heaven, keep me in your peace.

Remind me how you made dark spirits flee, and spoke Your power to the rugged sea, and spoke Your mercy to a sinful man. Remind me. Jesus, for this is what I am. The universe is vast beyond the stars, but You are mindful when a sparrow falls, and mindful of the anxious thoughts that find me, surround me, and bind me. With all my heart I love You, sovereign Lord. Tomorrow, let me love You even more, and rise to speak the goodness of Your name until I close my eyes to sleep again. The universe is vast beyond the stars, but You are mindful when a sparrow falls, and mindful of the anxious thoughts that find me, surround me, and bind me. Jesus, King of angels, Heaven's light, hold my hand, and keep me through the night.

Prayer of Dedication

God of power, the evidence of your hand in nature fills us with wonder and awe.

Accept our offering this day, and help us to live in peace and harmony with all your creation. Amen

Sermon "Eco-Spirituality" Rev. Judy Brain

Scripture Reading Psalm 65:6-13 John Feuerbach

The New Century Version

O Lord, People everywhere on the earth and beyond the sea trust you.
You made the mountains by your strength; you are dressed in power.
You stopped the roaring seas, the roaring waves, and the uproar of the nations.
Even those people at the ends of the earth fear your miracles.
You are praised from where the sun rises to where it sets.
You take care of the land and water it; you make it very fertile.
The rivers of God are full of water. Grain grows because you make it grow.
You send rain to the plowed fields; you fill the rows with water.
You soften the ground with rain, and then you bless it with crops.
You give the year a good harvest, and you load the wagons with many crops.
The desert is covered with grass and the hills with happiness.
The pastures are full of flocks, and the valleys are covered with grain.
Everything shouts and sings for joy.

Anthem There Is a Balm in Gilead – William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Chorus: There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Verse: Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Chorus:

Verse: If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say "He died for all".

Chorus:

Hymn O How Glorious, Full of Wonder (insert)

Responsive Benediction Adapted from Gaelic Runes

One: Deep peace of the running wave to you.

All: Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

One: Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

All: Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

One: Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you,
who breathes into us His Peace and His Spirit.

All: Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

Closing Song May It Be – Eithne Ni Bhraonain (1961), arr. Mark Brymer; from 'The Lord of the Rings'

your heart will be true. You walk a lonely road, oh, how far you are from home. Mornie u tulie*. Believe and you will find your way. Mornie alantie**. A promise lives within you now. May it be the shadow's call will fly away. May it be your journey on to light the day. When the night is overcome, you may rise to find the sun. Mornie u tulie*. Believe and you will find your way. Mornie alantie**. A promise lives within you now.

*translation: darkness has come

** translation: darkness has fallen

Our Deacon this morning is John Feuerbach

We invite everyone to join us for a picnic lunch provided by the Vitality Committee following worship, stay to enjoy visiting with your Church family!

Our Preacher today 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.

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, 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**.

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.

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/>

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.

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

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



Come to a sorting party! Wednesday, June 28, drop in anytime between 2 PM and 5 PM. We are bringing everything down from the Chapel Loft to decide what can be sold, kept, or tossed for our Fair by the Sea Rummage Sale.

Also –

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**

First Parish will be holding a **Fair by the Sea** with a rummage sale and our famous jewelry table during the Festival by the Sea in August. Along with our sale we are offering the opportunity for vintage vendors to purchase tablespace. 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>