



**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 16, 2023, 9 AM

Prelude Gnosssienne # 1 – Eric Satie (1866-1925)

Welcome by Deacon

Call to Worship (Psalm 8)

Pastor: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

People: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

Pastor: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

People: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

Pastor: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

People: the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

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

Hymn O How Glorious, Full of Wonder NCH #558

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

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.

The Sacrament of Baptism for Brooks Weston Kelleher

Parents: Tyler and Melanie (DeCeglia) Kelleher, Marblehead, MA

Grandparents: Sharon Kelleher, North Andover, MA, John Kelleher, West Newbury, MA, Carole Finn, Beverly, MA, Marc DeCeglia, Tampa, FL

Great Grandparents: Nancy and George Finn, Manchester, MA

John Mastrangelo, Manchester, NH

Godparents: Ben Kelleher and Caroline Finn

Introduction

Covenant of the One Being Baptized

Covenant of the Congregation

Blessing of the Baptismal Water

The Act of Baptism

Congregational Prayer for the One Baptized (together)

We give you thanks, O God, for Brooks, and for his Baptism through water and Your Holy Spirit. May his reception into Your spiritual community help him find courage and strength in difficult times, experience the joy that You desire him to know, and receive the fullness of life that comes from following the example of Jesus. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Meditation Pilgrims May Flower - words and music by Paul Knox

Paul Knox, solo

Chorus: We are pilgrims seeking out a holy shrine that we know is not on this jaded earth. Somewhere it shines up in our minds this sacred place of rebirth

Verse: Love is the compass, music can be a path, kindness is the light and warmth of day. Our senses seek out beauty while our bodies work and play. Our minds learn from problems on the way.

Chorus:

Verse: We gather together to share in company, talk about what we've seen and heard. Each of us performers using dissonance and harmony, echoes of the whispering Word.

Chorus:

Verse: The fortunate among us were born and raised in love. All of us have had heartbreak on the way, but we can rest assured God will heal and comfort us. You shall rise up and seize the day.

Chorus:

Prayer of Dedication

O Lord, we thank you for these gifts so freely given in response to your love for us. May they be used wisely to reflect your purposes for us.

Scripture Reading Genesis 1:26-31 Adrian Argento

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.

Sermon “Stories of Creation” Rev. Emily Castner

Solo Eye Hath Not Seen (from ‘The Holy City’) – Alfred Gaul (1837-1913)

Solo Paul Knox, solo

Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.

For He hath prepared for them a city, whose builder and maker is God, Eye hath not seen the things prepared for them that love Him. There remaineth, therefore, a rest for the people, the people of God; therefore fear lest anyone come short of it. Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither have entered

into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for them that Love Him.

Hymn We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky NCH #563

Blessing

May God bless you on your adventure of faith. You will not always know the way. You cannot predict the future. There will be dangers along the way. May God give you faith and courage to trust that your constant companion is Jesus who has promised to be with you always. Go in God's love. Amen

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.

Our Deacon this morning is Barbara Smith.

This morning we welcome Rev. Emily Castner. Called to ministry as a third career, Emily worked as a chaplain in a 500+bed nursing home in Rochester, NY. After her husband of 50 years died, Emily moved to Worcester, MA to be closer to her children. There Emily has been active in the United Congregational Church, serving as deacon and as chair of their creation justice task force. In response to a growing need, she signed up to be a supply pastor in 2022.

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.

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

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. 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month, 10 – noon, First Parish Chapel Hall, 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:

This week - 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, contact Jeanne at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com.

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](#) or email richard.w.smith@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.

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, August 28, 6:30 PM** place TBD
Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder will be discussed.

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



Next week, come help us set up another table and price some past unsold fair items, sort through dishes we are selling. **Come by on Weds. July 19, drop in anytime between 2 PM and 5 PM.**

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 goods in August for the Fair.**