



**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 23, 2023, 9 AM**

**Prelude** Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart – Frederick C. Atkinson  
(1841-1896 , arr. Lloyd Larson

**Welcome by Deacon**

**Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 89:1-4,15-18)

I will sing about the wonders of your love forever, O God!

I will tell everyone I meet about your faithfulness to all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm,

that your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens above!

Blessed are those who know you as their God,

for they walk in the light of your presence!

Come let us worship and praise God.

**Hymn** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee NCH #4

**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.

**Solo** I Stood on the River of Jordan – spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I stood on the river of Jordan, to see that that ship come sailing over; stood on the river of Jordan, to see that ship sail by. Oh mourner, don't you weep when you see that ship come sailing over! Oh mourner, don't you weep when you see that ship sail by.

O sister, you better be ready to see that ship come sailing over; brother, you better be ready to see that ship sail by. Oh mourner, don't you weep when you see that ship come sailing over! Shout 'Glory Hallelujah' when you see that ship sail by. I stood on the river of Jordan.

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Meditation** Cancion de Luna (Song of the Moon) – Ernesto Lecuona (1896-1963)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

### **Prayer of Dedication unison**

**May these gifts, given to ministries of grace, be a blessing to friends and strangers, those like us and those not, those deserving and those not, for in this way the holy and welcoming love of God reaches all of God's beloved. Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading Matthew 10:40-42 Liz Loomis**

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

### **Sermon "Holy Hospitality" Elsa Marshall**

**Solo** Wayfaring Stranger – Traditional – arr. Eva Cassidy

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I am a poor wayfaring stranger while journeying through this world of woe. Yet there's no sickness, toil nor danger in that bright land to which I go. I'm going there to see my father, I'm going there no more to roam. I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home. I know dark clouds will gather o'er me, know my way, my way is rough and steep. Yet beautiful fields lie just before me, in God's redeemed their vigils keep. I'm going back to see my father, I'm going back, no more to run. I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going home. I'm going back, oh, to see my mother. I'm going back, no more to roam.. I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home. I want to wear that crown of glory when I get home to that good land. Well, I want to shout salvation story in concert with, oh, the blood-washed band.

I'm going there to see my saviour, I'm going there no more to roam. I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home. Well, I'm only going over home..

**Hymn Lord, I Want to Be a Christian NCH #454**

### **Blessing**

**Closing Song** Grace – Clifford Shaw (1911-1976)

For the blanket of the night o'er a starlit sky; for the hush of the dawn when morning is nigh; for the tender spring, for music, for the joy the day may bring, we thank Thee, dear God. May all our lives sing. Amen.

**Our Deacon this morning is Liz Loomis.**

**Our Greeter is Christina Calandra.**

**This morning we welcome Elsa Marshall as Worship Leader.** Elsa Marshall is a retired minister in the UCC. She served local churches, the MA conference, and the UCC in various capacities. She is a national UCC Education consultant. She is facilitating the Thursday 4pm zoom bible study each week. She is also consulting with the staff and congregation regarding FPCC's vision and ministry for its Christian Education/Faith Formation Program, in conjunction with FPCC's Settled Pastor Search Process during this transitional period. Elsa says "she is delighted to serve this congregation and is deeply grateful for your kind welcome and the interesting and challenging discussions shared each Thursday."

### **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>



**Come on Weds. July 26 for our next Fair by the Sea activity**, drop in at the Chapel anytime between 2 PM and 4 PM. We will have lemonade and a sweet treat and will be setting up the resale/rummage table, putting stickers on some items (no price guessing needed!) hanging some vintage clothing pieces that have been donated.

Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> we will be creating the raffle baskets! Come by at 2 PM to help. Starting on Aug. 1 and onward we will be setting up the Fair completely.

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

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>

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).

**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](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com).

### **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

### **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!

**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, drop at the Chapel.

**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:

**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).

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](mailto:richard.w.smith@gmail.com).

The **Seaside Parish Knitters** next meets this summer - **Friday, August 11** 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** We are skipping our August 28th meeting and giving everyone the summer to read all those books that are in your pile. Please come back in September with some suggestions for books in the coming year. We will choose for the year! Happy reading! Our next book group will be on September 25th at 6:30 PM at Mary Lumsden’s home at 8 Woodcrest Road, Manchester.



Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder will be discussed. 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. 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](mailto: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.