



**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 30, 2023, 9 AM**

Prelude Impromptu in A Flat, op. 142, #2 – Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Welcome by Deacon

Call to Worship

Leader: How shall we pray to God this day?

People: Let our spirits be humble and contrite.

Leader: God will take all that we are and help us work for good.

**People: Even though we struggle and wonder if we are good
enough, God sees our abilities and our loving hearts.**

Leader: Bring your hearts to God this day.

People: May God touch our lives with peace and confidence.

Hymn Enter, Rejoice, and Come In NCH #73 (Please rise in body or spirit)

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 The Power of Your Love – Geoff Bullock (1955), arr. Lloyd Larson

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Lord, I come to You; let my heart be changed, renewed, flowing from the grace that I've found in You. And Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me will be stripped away by the power of Your love. Hold me close, let Your love surround me. Bring me near, draw me to Your side.

As I walk, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You; Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love. Lord, unveil my eyes; let me see You face to

face, the knowledge of Your love as You live in me. Lord, renew my mind as Your will unfolds in my life, in living every day by the power of Your love. Hold me close, let Your love surround me. Bring me near, draw me to Your side. As I walk, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You; Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

The Sacrament of Baptism for Penelope Drew Collens.

We are about to do something here that is fully and wholly sacred. And mysterious. What is baptism? Why do we do it?

Baptism is a sacrament! One of only two sacraments in our tradition, and the most ancient Christian practice. Jesus himself was baptized in the Jordan River by John. And Jesus taught the disciples to baptize people. And they baptized their children and neighbors. And on and on. And today, 2000 years later, right here, right now, we're going to baptize Penelope.

What we are about to do together is a Sacred Mystery given to us by Jesus. It can never be fully comprehended, it can only be felt - a moment in which God's Grace breaks into our lives, a moment in which the Holy of Holies comes to us, a moment in which the Spirit descends upon us like a dove.

The first people to be baptized were adults. But infants and children began being baptized early on. Not by themselves, but as a part of their family. As the apostles spread the Good News, entire households would be baptized together - parents and children and babies. And that is part of what we are doing here this morning: baptizing a member of one big family, one household, one church.

This morning we will baptize Penelope Drew Collens as a public profession of our faith that God's love is in her and that God's Spirit has touched her.

And so together we promise to raise her with this faith, by this grace, and in this Mystery.

Blessing the Baptismal Water

The Children Present and Today's Deacon Come Forward to Bless the Water

Pastor: And now will Penny's siblings, and today's Deacon, you stewards of holy things, come forward with water from the Jordan River, and let us pour it into the font and bless it and make it Christ's own living water.

As the water is poured, the congregation prays together.

We ask in the name of your beloved baptized Jesus, that You, God of Ocean and River, Snow and Rain, bless this water through the power of your Holy Spirit, and baptize Penelope into Christ's Body, into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection, and into our life together in this place. AMEN.

Pastor: Now that the water is prepared, we invite Penny's parents, siblings and godparents to come forward with her.

Penelope Drew Collens

Parents: Nichole Collens & Josiah Collens III

Siblings: Lillian (Lily) & J.R. (Josiah IV)

Sponsors: Erica Burns & Drennan Burns

As a covenant, baptism demands certain promises from all parties involved.

Parental Vows

Nichole & Josiah, as Penny's parents, please respond to each question: We do or we will, with the help of God

Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Will you share with Penelope your Christian faith, and be authentically who you are with her?

Will you encourage and pray for Penelope, helping her to become who God intends her to be?

Will you raise Penelope within a nurturing community of faith?

Do you promise to grow with Penelope letting her teach you about Christ's vision of love for all people?

Vows of the Godparents

Erica & Drennan, as Penny's Godparents, please respond to each: We will, with the help of God

Will you share with your godchild, Penelope, your own wisdom and understanding of the God of all Creation?

Will you share your trust in, and your questions about, God and the world God has made?

Will you encourage and pray for Penelope, helping her to become who God intends her to be?

Will you, by your prayers and your active involvement in Penelope's life, aid her parents in the keeping of their own promises?

Vows of the Congregation

As the gathered congregation of First Parish Church, please respond to each question: We do

Do you promise, by your prayers and your reaching out, to offer all support and compassion to Penelope's parents in the fulfilling of the promises they make today?

Do you promise to be storytellers and good angels for Penelope providing her with a community where she is cherished, understood and taught to honor the miracle of who she is as well as the lessons of the loving Christ?

The Act of Baptism

Pastor: By what name will this child be called?

Penelope Drew Collens, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Congregational Prayer for the One Baptized (unison)

Loving God, we give you thanks for Penelope this day. Give her strength for life's journey, courage in difficult times, the comfort of faith, love that cannot die, laughter in the company of friends, and the hope of new life; May she be filled with joy; may she never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you. Bless Penelope's parents, may they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for her. Bless these, our faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introduction to the Congregation & Presentation of Gifts

Invitation to the Offering

Meditation Prelude in D, op. 23 #4 – Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Maja Tremiszewska, piano

Prayer of Dedication

All: Lord, receive our gifts and our lives. Cause all of these blessings to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us for safekeeping. In Christ's Name, we pray. Amen

Scripture Reading Betsy Nickless

From the Hebrew Scriptures 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

Sermon Rev. Ellie Richardson

Solo Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying – Ken Medema (1943)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Refrain:

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this

place; Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. Something's gonna happen like the world has never known, when the people of the Lord get down to pray; a door's gonna swing open, and the walls come a-tumbling down, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

Refrain

He's gonna take over, He's gonna take control, when the people of the Lord get down to pray; He's gonna move the mountain, He's gonna make the waters roll, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

Refrain

You're gonna know it when the Lord stretches out His hand, when the people of the Lord get down to pray; there's gonna be a brand new song of vict'ry in this land, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

Refrain

Hymn There's a Wideness in God's Mercy NCH #23 (please rise in body or spirit)

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.

Our Deacon this morning is Barbara Smith.

Please join us for coffee after the worship service!

This morning we welcome Rev. Ellie Richardson, as our Worship Leader.

Rev. Ellie Richardson (She/Her/Hers) is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ having graduated from Andover Newton Theological School. She has served as Minister of Spiritual Development in the historic Andover Association of the Massachusetts Conference (MACUCC); moderator and chair of the Committee on Formation for the historic Andover Association; Associate Conference Minister for Lay & Clergy Leadership Development in the historic MACUCC and the Southern New England Conferences; she is a co-founder of

Potentials Coaching & Consulting and is a PCC level trained coach; Ellie also serves churches as an Intentional Transitional Interim Minister.

In addition to church ministry Rev. Ellie serves as co-chair of the COMPASS steering committee, for national setting of the United Church of Christ. COMPASS provides training and support for Community of Practice programs throughout the denomination.

We welcome Dr. Maja Tremiszewska, as our guest pianist this morning. A native of Poland, pianist Maja Tremiszewska is an Assistant Professor of Voice (Opera Coaching) at Boston Conservatory at Berklee and a head coach for MassOpera Young Artists Program at Longy School of Music at Bard College. She frequently collaborates with various opera companies including Enigma Chamber Opera, Mass Opera, Guerilla Opera, Boston Opera Collaborative, Chicago Summer Opera and Wagner Institute at Miami Music Festival. An Emerging Artist for Boston Lyric Opera, she served as a rehearsal pianist for their production of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* and performed recitatives on harpsichord for the same production at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theater. As a freelance recitalist, she has performed in various venues, among them Jordan Hall, Berklee Performance Center, Goethe Institute, Merkin Hall at Kaufman Center in NYC and Ozawa Hall in Lenox, MA. In 2005, she won first prize at the First International Chamber Music Competition of New England and consequently performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City. As a winner of the University Concerto Competition, she presented Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G* at Tsai Performance Center. She holds a doctorate degree in Collaborative Piano from Boston University and B.A. and M.M in Piano Performance from Gdańsk Academy of Music in Poland. Dr. Tremiszewska is a scholarship and fellowship recipient of Aspen Music Festival Opera Center, Miami Music Festival, Fontainebleau School of the Arts and Bowdoin Summer Music Festival.

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.

Fair by the Sea is happening this upcoming Saturday!

Here is the schedule for this week -

Tuesday, create the Raffle Baskets and set up the table of baskets, 2 PM.

Wednesday, finish setting up the rummage table and dishes, 2 PM.

Thursday, make sure everything looks good, check any missing pricing, set up the homemade treats table. Vintage Vendors come and set up, come by anytime.

Thursday and Friday, drop off Homemade Treats

Saturday, come help out or come shop, 9 AM.

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.

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/>

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 **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 18 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 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