



**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 9, 2023, 9 AM**

**Prelude** Adagio Cantabile (from Sonata in C Minor, op.13) - L.V. Beethoven (1770-1827)

**Welcome by Deacon**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: And Jesus said, "Come!"

**People: To the light-hearted and the heavy-hearted: he said, "Come!"**

Leader: To the well-off and the cast-off: he said, "Come!"

**People: To the youngsters and the oldsters: he said, "Come!"**

Leader: To the faithful and the faithless: he said, "Come!"

**People: "Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give  
you rest.**

Leader: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble  
of heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and  
my burden is light."

**ALL: Lord Jesus, let this hour of worship find us resting in you.**

**Hymn** Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us NCH #252

**Solo** Recitative and Aria, from 'Elijah' – Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Paul Knox, solo

Draw near, all ye people, come to me!

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, this day let it be known that Thou art  
God; and that I am Thy servant! Lord God of Abraham! Oh shew to all this  
people

that I have done these things according to Thy word. Oh hear me, Lord, and  
answer me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, oh hear me and answer me,  
and shew this people that Thou art Lord God. And let their hearts again be  
turned

**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 Eleanor Kathleen Vickery**

### **Introduction**

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 Eleanor.

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 Eleanor Kathleen Vickery 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 and Deacon Come Forward to Bless the Water

Pastor: And now children and 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 they pour, 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 Eleanor 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 Ellie's parents, big brothers and godparents to come forward with her.

**Eleanor Kathleen Vickery**

**Parents: Lindsey (Ferm) & Thomas Vickery**

**Siblings: Charlie & William**

**Sponsors: Michelle Burke & Matt Vickery**

**Grandparents: Peter and Rosemary Vickery, Jan Ferm, Bob and Donna Ferm**

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

### **Parental Vows**

Lindsey and Thomas, as Ellie's parents, please respond to each: We do and 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 Eleanor your Christian faith, and be authentically who you are with her?

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

Will you raise Eleanor within a nurturing community of faith?

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

## **Vows of the Godparents**

Michelle and Matt, as Ellie's Godparents, please respond to each: We will, with the help of God

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

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

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

Will you, by your prayers and your active involvement in her 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 Eleanor's parents in the fulfilling of the promises they make today?

Do you promise to be storytellers and good angels for Eleanor 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?

Eleanor Kathleen Vickery, 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 Eleanor 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 Eleanor'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.

**Hymn** Child of Blessing, Child of Promise NCH #325

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Meditation** Barcarolle (from 'The Tales of Hoffmann') – Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

### **Prayer of Dedication** unison

What weights us down doesn't just disappear in the wind, but rather lightens because the load is shared. So, God of Our Yoke, may we prosper in solidarity. May what feels hard, be the "right" kind of hard—one that strengths us in growth and connection. Let the cycle of suffering finally have its last day, and the Year of Jubilee begin with us. Amen.

### **Scripture Reading** Matthew 11:16-30 John Round

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; 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."

Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you."

At that time Jesus said, “I thank[b] 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; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 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.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

### **Sermon “Are You Finding Rest?” Rev. Ellie Richardson**

**Solo** The House I Live In – Earl Robinson (1910-1991), words by Lewis Allen (1903-1986)

Paul Knox, solo

What is America to me? A name, a map, or a flag I see, a certain word, democracy. What is America to me? The house I live in, a plot of earth, a street, the grocer and the butcher and the people that I meet; the children in the play ground, the faces that I see; all races, all religions, that's America to me. The place I work in, the worker at my side, the little town or city where my people lived and died; the “howdy” and the handshake, the air of feeling free, the right to speak my mind out, that's America to me. The things I see about me, the big things and the small, the little corner newsstand and the house a mile tall; the wedding and the churchyard, the laughter and the tears, the dream that's been a growin' for a hundred fifty years: the town I live in - the street, the house, the room; the pavement of the city, or a garden all in bloom, the church, the school, the clubhouse, the million lights I see; but especially the people, that's America to me.

**Hymn** In the Midst of New Dimensions NCH #391

### **Blessing**

**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. 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.

### **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>

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



**Fair by the Sea! Come help us with setting up the Christmas Clean-Out table, stringing ribbon on FPC bubble wands and creating some small goodie bags of small items. Weds. July 12, 2 – 4 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 for our FPC table**.

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>

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).

[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!

**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](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** 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, 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](mailto:loomisliz@hotmail.com) “Horse” by Geraldine Brooks will be discussed.

**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](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.

**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.**