



**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
August 27, 2023, 9 AM

Prelude Prelude in C (book 1, WTC) – J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Ave Maria – J.S. Bach/Charles Gounod (1818-1893)
Erin Merceruio Nelson, solo

Welcome by Deacon

Call to Worship

Leader: Lord, our God, how powerful is your name over all the earth!

People: You have set your glory in the heavens.

Leader: Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against darkness

People: When I consider your heavens,

the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars,

which you have set in place,

what is mankind that you are mindful of them,

human beings that you care for them?

Leader: You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You made them stewards over the works of your hands

People: Tree and shrub and grass of the field

all flocks and herds,

and the animals of the wild,

the birds in the sky,

and the fish in the sea,

all that swim the paths of the seas!

Leader: Lord, our God,

How mighty is your name over all the earth!

Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth NCH #28

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.

Invitation to the Offering unison

In gratitude for all that God has allowed us, we give from our hearts that which we have to share. May these gifts be used for the expansion of Gods Kingdom here on earth.

Meditation Syrinx – Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Bonnie Anderson, flute

Prayer of Dedication unison

Loving and Forgiving God, we praise your name and your glorious gifts of creation and pray that these gifts will serve this creation with effective action and affective joy. Help us to use our time, talents, and treasures with the power of unconditional love: creating compassionate response and intuitive generosity. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Scripture Reading Genesis 1:27-28 The Message Translation

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."

Sermon "Imago Dei" Jeanne Westcott

Solo Alleluia (from 'Exultate Jubilate') – W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Erin Merceruio Nelson, solo

Hymn Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing NCH #77

Blessing (from Colossian 3:10) ¹⁰ You are living a brand-new kind of life that is continually learning more and more of what is right, and trying constantly to be more and more like Christ who created this new life within you. Walk tall and shine bright in the knowledge that in partnership with God, we have the power to serve and bring about change as essential image bearers. Go in Peace.

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 Nancy Peterson.

We welcome Bonnie Anderson, our Guest Music Director this morning.

Bonnie Anderson has a varied career as chamber pianist, orchestral pianist, soloist, and teacher of students ages 12-88. She enjoys collaborating with musicians from the Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and San Francisco Symphony. Highlights of her collaborations include performing Hindemith's Trio for Saxophone, Viola and Piano with Branford Marsalis and Christof Huebner on the Nantucket Island Musical Arts Society Series, recital with Joseph Foley on the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra "Unleashed Series" in Houston, and concerts with her Piano Duo partner Stella Owen around New England. As orchestral pianist, Bonnie is a member of Orchestra of Indian Hill and performs as guest pianist with Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Concord Orchestra, and Portland Symphony. An enthusiastic educator, Bonnie teaches at Phillips Andover Academy and was previously on the faculty at UMass Lowell. This year's projects include outdoor concerts on two keyboards with her Piano Duo, solo recitals of her solo arrangements of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, and concerts with her new Piano Trio. Bonnie's recordings include a solo piano disc featuring French composers and a collaborative disc (Nightsongs) with trumpeter Joseph Foley. Bonnie attended the Juilliard School, Michigan State University, French Piano Institute in Paris and received her DMA from Boston University. She lives in Manchester with her family and two golden retrievers.

We welcome Erin Merceruio Nelson as our guest soloist. Hailed as "secure and sonorous" with a "bright, flexible voice" (Boston Musical Intelligencer), soprano Erin Merceruio Nelson is quickly becoming known for her signature blend of

impeccable musicianship and strong dramatic instincts across a broad range of challenging repertoire. An avid performer of new and contemporary music, Erin's 2021 - 2022 season performances include creating the role of The Nymph in the world premiere of NIGHTTOWN by Benjamin P. Wenzelberg with Lowell House Opera at Harvard University and creating the role of The Mother-In-Law in Byron Asher's new opera The Bedbug with Promenade Opera Project. In past seasons, Erin has premiered the chamber work Tide Flowers by composer Geoffrey Gibbs at the University of Rhode Island as the soprano soloist, appeared as Bea in Jake Heggie's Three Decembers with TBD Opera Project under the direction of Sharon Daniels, performed the role of Margaret in The Clever Artifice of Harriet and Margaret by Leanna Kirchoff with Opera del West, and sang Beth March in Mark Adamo's Little Women with Boston Opera Collaborative. Other recent performances include Lady Clarence in Odyssey Opera's concert production of Saint-Saëns' Henry VIII, First Lady and Papagena in The Magic Flute with the Nahant Music Festival. Erin was also featured in Odyssey Opera's production of Strauss' Die ägyptische Helena and covered the role of Cunégonde in Opera del West's production of Bernstein's Candide. Throughout the pandemic, Erin took part in several outdoor concerts with NEMPAC and Opera on Tap Boston. Also recently, Erin was thrilled to be named a Finalist in the Vermont Vocal Competition in Brandon, VT. www.erinmerceruionelson.com.

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>

Our FPCC **Compassion child**, Chepkirwok always needs supporters, [sign up now](#). Questions can be directed to Sue Parker, sueparker33@aol.com.

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>

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 Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. 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.

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.

The Stephen Ministry. 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



Items for Care Packages

FOOD

- Cup of soup, ramen noodles, mac & cheese cups, individual cereal
- Individual containers of apple sauce, oranges, peaches, etc.
- Tuna packages, individual cans of tuna, chicken, deviled ham
- Power bars, beef jerky, granola bars, raisins
- Cookies, crackers, peanut butter crackers, pretzels, nuts
- Popcorn, cheez-its, candy, fruit snacks, pop tarts

TOILETRIES

- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash
- Sunscreen, insect repellent, skin cream, baby powder, foot powder
- Cotton swabs, individual tissues, sanitizer wipes, band aids
- Disposable razors, deodorant, shaving cream (not aerosol)
- Chapstick, Vaseline

MISCELLANEOUS

- Men and women socks, fleece blankets
- Playing cards, travel games, frisbees
- Word puzzle books, crossword puzzle books, brain teasers
- Current magazines, paperback books, stationary, pens, DVDs

MONETARY DONATIONS

- Please go to our website for more information



*Thank You for Your Support
- Post 113 Auxiliary*

www.operationtroopsupport.org

Faith Formation is collecting school supplies, to benefit the Beeman School of Gloucester, the sales are currently on! If you are out and about, please consider the following to add - Spiral bound notebooks (not college ruled), Pencils, Pens, Washable Markers in thin and thin variety, Composition notebooks, Crayons in 24 pack size, Small staplers and staples, Paper clips, Dry Erase markers, Sharpies (for teachers), Construction paper, Sketch pads, Index cards, Pink Pearl Erasers. Any assorted Art Supplies: like paint brushes, washable paint, craft foam sheets, stickers, glitter glue. Let's support our educators and students by limiting their needs and preparing them for success!