



**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 6, 2023, 9 AM**

Prelude Sarabande, from French Suite #6 in E – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome by Deacon

Call to Worship (from Ps. 118)

ONE: Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.

MANY: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

ONE: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone!

MANY: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes!

ONE: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

MANY: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

O give thanks for God is good, God's steadfast love endures forever!

Prayer of Invocation

Come, Holy Spirit, pass again over the abyss and draw us forward. Enter this sacred space, at this precious moment, sweep us away from the powers of principalities and potentates, creating in us a fresh spirit for the living of these days. Give form here to our inchoate hopes! Shape now our aspirations into song! May a vision of the Christ overtake us as we worship this morning and fill each longing soul with purpose and passion. Amen.

Hymn Nearer, my God to You NCH #606

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 Prayer – David Foster (1949), words by C.B. Sager;

Lead Us, Lord – Samuel Wesley (1766-1837), Psalm 5

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

We pray you'll be our eyes, and watch us where we go, and help us to be wise in times when we don't know. Let this be our prayer when we lose our way.

Lead us to a place, guide us with your grace to a place where we'll be safe.

We pray we'll find Your light, and hold it in our heart as darkness falls each night, remind us where You are. Let this be our prayer, when shadows fill our day. Lead us to a place, guide us with Your grace. Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Lead us, Lord, lead us in Your righteousness; make Your way plain for us to see.

We pray we'll find Your light, and hold it in our hearts as darkness falls each night; remind us where You are. Let this be our prayer, just like ev'ry child needs to find a place, guide us with Your grace. Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Lead us to a place, guide us with Your grace to a place where we'll be safe. Lead us, Lord.

Invitation to the Offering

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For God's gift to every nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safe-keeping, all thanks be to God. Amen.

[Fred Pratt Green, 1970]

Meditation At Last – Alexis Ffrench (1970)

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading Jeff Bodmer-Turner

Romans 6:3-11

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the

life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

John 5:1-9

¹ After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethesda, which has five porticoes. ³ In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. ⁵ One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ ⁷ The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ ⁸ Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ ⁹ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

Sermon “The miracle of forgiveness” Rev. Rick Chrisman

Solo I’ll Fly Away – Albert E. Brumley (1905-1977)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Some glad morning when this life is o’er, I’ll fly away. To my home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away. O I’ll fly away, O glory! I’ll fly away. When I die, hallelujah by and by, in the sweet by and by. I’ll fly away. Some glad morning when this life is o’er, I’ll fly away, to a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away. I’ll fly away, O glory, I’ll fly away. When I die, hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away. ‘Cause I’ve got a home in gloryland that outshines the sun. Yes, I’ve got a home in gloryland that outshines the sun. I’ve got a home in gloryland that outshines the sun way beyond the blue. O I’ll fly away, O glory, I’ll fly away. When I die hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away. O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies, O they tell me of a home far away; O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise, O they tell me of an unclouded day. O the land of cloudless day, O the land of an unclouded day; O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise, O they tell me of an unclouded day. When the roll is called up yonder, when the roll call is called up yonder, when the roll call is called up yonder, when the roll call is called up yonder I’ll be there! And there are just a few more weary days and then, I’ll fly away.

To a land where joys shall never end, I’ll fly away. O I’ll fly away, O glory, I’ll fly away, by and by, to glory, when I die, hallelujah by and by, by and by, O glory, I’ll fly away. I’ll fly away.

Blessing

Closing Song

Grace – Clifford Shaw (1911-1976), text Nora D. McGee

For the blanket of the night o'er a starlit sky;

For the hush of the dawn when morning is nigh;

For tender spring, for music, for joy the day may bring,

We thank Thee dear God. May all our lives sing. Amen

Our Deacon this morning is Barbara Smith.

Our Greeters are Jeff and Sandy Bodmer-Turner.

This morning we welcome Rev. Rick Chrisman. Rick has had a dual career in campus and urban parish ministry. He served chaplaincies at Princeton, Tufts, and Skidmore. Also he ministered at Old South Church Boston, Central UCC in Jamaica Plain, and Eliot UCC in Newton. He always asks, what might the arts contribute to ministry? He lives with his wife Cindy in Brighton.

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.

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](https://www.paypal.com/paytothecharity?charity=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

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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/>

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](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-sunday2)
<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 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. 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.