



**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
September 3, 2023, 9 AM**

Prelude Come Thou Font of Every Blessing – Robert Robinson (1735-1790),
arr. Linda Hartman

Welcome by Deacon

Call to Worship

Leader: This new day is fresh with possibility to encounter the Living Christ.

Response: With bright eyes, let us search.

Leader: This new day is fresh with possibility to understand the Living Christ.

Response: With engaged minds, let us ponder.

Leader: This new day is fresh with possibility to be moved by the Living Christ.

Response: With compassionate hearts, let us feel.

Leader: This new day is fresh with possibility to respond to the Living Christ.

Response: With solid devotion, let us follow.

Leader: This new day is fresh with possibility to serve the Living Christ.

Response: With humble intention, let us act.

Leader: This new day is fresh with possibility to praise the Living Christ.

**All: With strong voices, let us sing praise to the ruler of all nature, our soul's
glory, joy, and crown.**

Adapted from a Call by Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson on her blog, Freshly
Squeezed Liturgy. <http://freshlysqueezedliturgy.blogspot.com/>

Hymn O Christ, the Great Foundation NCH #387

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 Woe unto Them Who Forsake Him! (from 'Elijah') – Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Woe, woe unto them who forsake Him! Destruction shall fall upon them: for they have transgressed, transgressed against Him. Though they are by Him redeemed, by Him redeemed, though they are by Him redeemed. Yet they have spoken falsely against Him, spoken falsely against Him. Woe, woe until them who forsake Him! Destruction shall fall upon them. Though they are by Him redeemed; from Him have they fled; though they are by Him redeemed; even from Him have they fled. Woe unto them! Woe unto them!

Invitation to the Offering

Meditation Bagatelle in G, op. 126, #5 – L. van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading John Round

Matthew 13:31-50 [passim]

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; indeed he never spoke to them except in parables. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth to speak in parables;

I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation."

Let anyone with ears listen!

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Colossians 1:13-20

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Sermon “The Kingdom of Possibility” Rev. Rick Chrisman

Solo Monologue for the Working Class – Florence Price (1887-1953)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

There’s a new wind a-blowin’ down on Tobacco Road. There’s a new hope agrowin’ for them folks by name o’ Joad. There’s a new truth we’ll be knowin’ that will lift our heavy load when we find out what the working class can do. There’s a new day a-comin’ for the poor and unemployed, new tunes we’ll be hummin’ from our hearts so overjoyed. As we march we’ll be a-drummin’ how our trouble’s been destroyed when we find out what the working class can do. All day long I’ve labored all my life through. Ask the boss man for a favor, he says “no can do”. But when I unite with my neighbor we’ll make this old world new, ‘cause we know what the working class can do. So let’s get together, folks, that labor with our hands. And let’s get together, folks, with brains that understand. And let’s get together, folks, all across this land, and show ‘em what the working class can do. ‘Cause it’s a fact I love my country and that old red white and blue.

That's why I want to make my country a fine land for me and you, for there ain't no sense in this here country be-in' a place where folks is blue – and it won't be when the working class gets through.

Hymn Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us NCH #267

Blessing

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

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

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 Deacons this morning are Marianne Round and John Feuerbach.

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.

Altar Flowers

With gardens and yards still 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.

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

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.

The **Seaside Parish Knitters** meets each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm. Sept. 7 & 21. 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.

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>

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!

[Click to read](#) the most recent edition of The **Church Bell Newsletter**.

Visiting Nurses Health Clinic, free. Held on 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)
<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!