



**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 10, 2023, 10 AM
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Prelude All Glory Be to God on High – Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Welcome by Deacon

Call to Worship

Welcome home. Here we find a song for our souls and healing for our wounds.

**Yes, welcome home. Here we find laughter that chases dark clouds away,
and quiet prayers that lead us to still waters and green pastures.**

Welcome to this holy space. Here there are friends with a tender embrace,
and here there are words that heal brokenness and reveal God's grace.

Yes, welcome home. God has been expecting you. The door is open.

We welcome everyone to this festival of renewal and hope.

Hymn Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise NCH #1

Children's Moment (for young and young at heart) by Jeanne Westcott

Anthem Awake, My Soul, and Sing – Allen Pote (1945 – 2010) text: based on
Psalms 71 & 108

Awake, my soul, and sing; arise and sing a psalm. For great are you, Lord, and
great Your love; Your kindness is forever. You have been my hope, my
confidence since my youth. I will proclaim Your marvelous deeds. I will ever
sing praises. Even when I am growing old, do not forsake me, O God. I will
declare Your strength and power to the next generation, to all who are to come.
Awake, my soul, and sing. Arise and sing a psalm. Be exalted, O God, above the
heavens, your glory over all the earth. You have been my rock, my fortress, and
my shield. I will ever praise Your name, for you are my God. Awake, my soul,
and sing. Arise and sing a psalm. Great are You, Lord, and great Your love. You
are my God! Awake, my soul, awake, my soul, and sing!

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

Meditation Andante, from 'Orfeo & Euridice' – C. W. Gluck (1714-1787)
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Prayer of Dedication (Read in Unison)

Gracious and holy God, accept what we offer today: our checks and cash, our faltering steps, our brokenness, our leftovers, our hope, our risking, our lives.

Bless and transform all that we offer and all that we hold back, that new life may be ours, to celebrate and share in Jesus' name. Amen

Scripture Reading Matthew 20:1-16 Lynda Griffiths

¹ 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴ and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷ They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³ But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you

and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Sermon "The Gift of Generosity" Rev. Dr. Dave VanArsdale

Anthem We Walk by Faith – Kenneth T. Kosche (1947)

We walk by faith and not by sight; no gracious words we hear from Christ, who spoke as none ever spoke; but we believe Him near. We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where he trod; but in His promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!" Help then, O Lord, our faith abound to call on You where You are found: that when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light we may behold You with full and endless sight.

Hymn Glorious Things of You Are Spoken NCH #307

Blessing

Closing Song The Peace of the Earth - Guatemalan traditional

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too; the peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans too. Deep peace falling over you; God's peace growing in you

Our Deacon this morning is Susan Parker.

This morning we welcome Rev. Dr. Dave VanArsdale. Our Preacher today is Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale. Dave retired in 2013 after 41 years in ministry, which started with Ordination in Edwards U.C.C. in Framingham and concluded as Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City, AZ. Ellen and Dave have become a part of the South Church (U.C.C.) in Andover since moving six years ago from Arizona to the Edgewood Retirement Community in North Andover. Dave is now serving as the Chair of the Council on Aging for North Andover.

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>

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

First Parish Staff

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Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

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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 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>

or contact Richard Smith at richard.w.smith@gmail.com.

Book Group ! Book Group meets on the last Monday of the month and hosting is shared among members. 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.

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!

Please come to a gathering to thank you for supporting our Church in 2023
Join us on the lawn, at Tuck's Point, Sunday, Sept. 17, 5 - 7 PM, for Pizza & First Parish Fizzes
We hope to see you there!
(If raining we will move to the Chapel Hall)

