



**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
October 15, 2023, 10 AM
Worship

Prelude I Sing the Mighty Power of God – arr. C. S. Robbins

Welcome by Deacon

Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved people of God, come to the wedding feast of life.

All: God has married the world in love!

Leader: Leave your labors and burdens, and come.

All: We come as we are, well and unwell, wounded and whole.

Leader: There is no worthiness or unworthiness, only that you are invited.

All: We come hungry for grace and ready to celebrate.

We come with joy to worship. Alleluia!

Hymn Praise to the Living God NCH #8

Anthem Blessed Is the Man – Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in the law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree that is planted by the rivers of waters, that bringeth forth his fruit in due season. His leaf shall not wither, and what he doeth shall prosper, shall prosper. And what he doeth shall prosper.

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.

Annual Fund Drive Mary Ellen Cook

1 Thessalonians 5:11 “therefore encourage one another and build up each other as indeed you are doing.”

Reflection question- what are your dreams for the future we are building together at First Parish?

Invitation to the Offering

Meditation Toccata in D Minor – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prayer of Dedication

God of Peace, we are confronted with so many overwhelming needs in our world. Walk with us as we set aside our own desires and wants and join the call to alleviate human suffering. Transform these gifts into genuine acts of concern and ministry to others. In the name of the One who surpasses all understanding, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading Liz Loomis Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.

He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.'

But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.'

Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.'

Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless.

Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind his hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Sermon Rev. Ellie Richardson

Anthem There Is a Balm in Gilead – William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Chorus: There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Verse: Some times I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Chorus:

Verse: If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say "He died for all".

Chorus:

Hymn How Firm a Foundation NCH #407

Blessing

Closing Song May the Road Rise Up to Meet You – Robert Lau (1943)

May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. And until we meet again, may God hold you in His hand. Amen.

Our Deacon this morning is Liz Loomis.

This morning we welcome Rev. Ellie Richardson. 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.

Listening devices are available for those in need; they are at the back of the Sanctuary. Feel free to address a Deacon should you need help.

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 Seaside Parish Knitters meets each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm. Oct. 5 & 19. 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.

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.

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>

Click to read the most recent edition of **The Church Bell Newsletter**.

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>

All Souls Day Remembrance, Sunday October 29, during the 10 AM worship. Rev. Ellie Richardson will lead a Litany of Remembrance for those we've lost (either as church family or in our outside of church life) since February 2020, the start of the pandemic. Who would you like to remember? You can add them [here](#), email the office at office.fpchurch@gmail.com or Bethany at bethany@bmwoodslc.com.

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

First Parish Staff

Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music, hweiss05@comcast.net

Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry
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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 Community 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.

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

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.

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.

Listed further below are more Book Group reads for the new year.

Monday, October 30, 6:30 PM, at Sheila Logue's home, 25 Norwood Ave. We will discuss Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See.

November 27, at Nancy Peterson's home. The book is The Walls Between Us, Vol. 1 by Haru Tsukishima.

December 11, a potluck dinner, and book swap at Joanne Hadaegh's home.

January 29 at Mary Ellen's home, 23 Harold St. The book is Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano.

February 26 at Meredith Tufts home. The book is Beyond That, the Sea by Laura Spence-Ash.

March 25 at Carol Spence's home. The book is Genesis in the Bible.