



**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 22, 2023, 10 AM
Worship**

Prelude from 'From the Southland' – Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

1. Through Moanin' Pines
2. In the Cold Moonlight

Welcome by Deacon

Call to Worship

Leader: We have gathered here this morning to worship God.

All: We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community and insight.

Leader: We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.

All: We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, and to ask God's help in our learning and our growing.

Leader: Let us pray for an open heart.

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Holy One, we thank you that you never forsake us, that you never stop loving us. Trusting in your unfailing love, we have gathered to worship and praise you. Through your Spirit, touch us, renew us, comfort us, challenge us. We come to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our strength, our redeemer, and friend. Amen

Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling NCH #43

Anthem One Faith, One Hope, One Lord – Craig Courtney (1948)

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which He died,
one voice, one song we lift in praise to Him who was and is and shall be
evermore. There is one body, one spirit, as you were called to one hope. One
Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Father of all, who is in you all. Though
we be many people, diverse with various gifts, we are given to each other for
the unity of faith, that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the
fullness of Christ.

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.

Stewardship Annual Fund Drive 2024 Paul Lengieza

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 I Got a Home – spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Paul Knox, soloist

I got a home in-a dat Rock, don't you see? Between the earth and sky,
Thought I heard my savior cry: you got a home in dat Rock, don't you see?

Poor man Lazrus, poor as I, when he died he found a home on high.

He had a home in dat Rock. Don't you see?

Rich man Dives, he lived so well, don't you see?

When he died he found a home in hell; he had no home in dat Rock.

God gave Noah the rainbow sign. Don't you see?

No more water but fish next time. Better get a home in dat Rock,

Don't you see?

Prayer of Dedication

O God, through what we give today, bless our world. Grant to the fearful, courage; to the oppressed, deliverance; to the hungry, sustenance, to the war-ravaged, peace. May this church's outreach transform lives. Bless our gifts and ourselves to your service. Amen.

Scripture Reading Matthew 20:1-16 The Contemporary English Version

As Jesus was telling what the kingdom of heaven would be like, he said:
Early one morning a man went out to hire some workers for his vineyard. After

he had agreed to pay them the usual amount for a day's work, he sent them off to his vineyard.

About nine that morning, the man saw some other people standing in the market with nothing to do. He said to them, "I will pay you what is fair, if you will work in my vineyard." So they went.

At noon and again about three in the afternoon he returned to the market. And each time he made the same agreement with others who were loafing around with nothing to do.

Finally, about five in the afternoon the man went back and found some others standing there. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?"

"Because no one has hired us," they answered. Then he told them to go work in his vineyard.

That evening the owner of the vineyard said to the man in charge of the workers, "Call them in and give them their money and begin with the ones who were hired last." When the workers arrived, the ones who had been hired at five in the afternoon were given a full day's pay.

The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard.

Congregation: "The ones who were hired last worked for only one hour. But you paid them the same that you did us. And we worked in the hot sun all day long!"

The owner answered one of them, "Friend, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on. Take your money now and go! What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same that I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?"

Sermon "Bad Business" Rev. Judy Brain

Anthem My Lord, What a Mornin' – Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh
(1866 – 1949)

My Lord what a mornin' when the stars begin to fall. Done quit all my worldly ways; joined that heavenly band. Oh! My Lord what a mornin' when the stars begin to fall.

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 Nancy Peterson.

Our Preacher today is Rev. Judy Brain. Rev. Brain is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School where she was awarded the Billings Prize for Preaching. She served as senior minister at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Lexington for 17 years and recently as a bridge pastor for several churches.

In her ministry, a primary focus has been interfaith understanding and social justice. She has worked with many community organizations that promote respect, civility, and peace.

As a leader in the Pastoral Excellence Program for the Mass. Conference, UCC, Judy facilitates groups for clergy who gather for collegial support and sharing best practices.

Judy lives in Essex, MA with her husband, Joe and enjoys the company of their grandchildren, gardening, swimming, kayaking, reading, and puzzles.

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.

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

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.

Our Stewardship Annual Fund Drive has begun. We will be taking a month to reflect on our theme, Thessalonians 5:11, "therefore encourage one another and build up each other as indeed, you are doing". A reflection question for the fund drive is - What are your dreams for the future we are building together at First Parish? In the next few weeks, we will have speakers from the First Parish community give their reflections during worship. In November our **Annual Fund Drive Sunday will be November 19**. Please bring your pledge cards! If you have any questions, please call Mary Ellen Cook 978-500-0018. We look forward to receiving your pledge for 2024, your Stewardship Committee.

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>

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 Staff

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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 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.

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 Please note the change in the book for November* This 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 November book is Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger.

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.

Women's Fellowship will once again create **gift bags for the Council on Aging** to distribute to seniors in need in November. Look for sticky notes with items needed in the Church in the upcoming weeks. Items can be dropped at the Chapel or Church.