



**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 29, 2023, 10 AM
Worship, All Souls**

Prelude Morning (from 'Peer Gynt') – Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Welcome by Deacon

Call to Worship

Leader: God, you have sent us saints who have guided and inspired us; and we thank you.

**All: You have given us saints who have loved us and transformed us.
We praise you.**

Leader: May we be your saints, shining with your light, radiant with your love.

All: Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!

Hymn My Life Flows on in Endless Song NCH #476

Solo You Raise Me Up/Be Still, My Soul – Brendan Graham (1945) & Jean Sibelius (1865-1957), arr. Tom Fettke

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Be still, my soul! The Lord is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain. Leave to your God to order and provide, in ev'ry change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below. When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary; when troubles come and my heart burdened be; then I am still and wait here in the silence until You come and sit awhile with me. You raise me up so I can stand on mountains. You raise me up to walk on stormy seas. I am strong when I am on Your shoulders. You raise me up to more than I can be.

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

Speaker Adrian Argento

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 Great is Thy Faithfulness – Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960), arr. Greg Howlett
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Prayer of Dedication

Giving God, we follow your example of the ministry of presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference and participate in your kingdom through generosity. Amen.

Scripture Reading Matthew 22:34-46

Liz Loomis

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Sermon

Rev. Ellie Richardson

Anthem Souls of the Righteous – T. Tertius Noble (1867 – 1953) text: Book of Wisdom iii, 1-8

Souls of the Righteous in the hand of God, nor hurt nor torment cometh them a-nigh, o holy hope of immortality, Souls of the Righteous in the hand of God. Souls of the Righteous in the hand of God, to eyes of men unwise they seem to die, they are at peace, they are at peace; o fairest liberty, o fairest liberty, Souls of the Righteous in the hand of God.

Service of Remembrance

Introduction

Opening Prayer unison

God of all comfort,

Be with us as we gather to remember all those who have died,

Whether recent or during the pandemic when we were unable to gather and grieve the passing of our beloved ones.

In this time, we ask that you

Give us peace as we reflect together.

And grant us hope for tomorrow

We are grateful that you promise to comfort us in all our troubles.

May we be assured of that comfort now. Amen

In Memoria of Vin Terrill, a reflection shared by Fran Bachman

Scripture Reading Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Reflection

Act of Remembering

As the names are read you are invited to come forward and light a candle. After lighting the candle, please take a flower as you return to your pew.

**All: The candles are lit God of mercy and hope,
Hear us and comfort us,
As we remember in love,
Those we have placed into your hands. Amen**

Litany of Remembrance

Leader: When we are weary and in need of strength
When we are lost and sick at heart,

All: We remember them.

Leader: When we have a joy we crave to share
When we have decisions that are difficult to make
When we have achievements that are based on theirs

All: We remember them.

Leader: At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter
At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring

All: We remember them.

Leader: At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer
At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn

All: We remember them.

Leader: At the rising of the sun and at its setting

All: We remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now part of us

As we remember them. (adapted from the Jewish Prayer Book)

Ending Prayer

The Bible says that one day “There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away.” (Rev 21:4)

And Jesus said “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?” (John 14:2)

All: Loving God, we thank you for all the people we have remembered today, For all that they were to us, for all that they taught us and for all that we treasure.

May we follow their example and be with them, witnesses to your lifegiving love.

As we believe in your power to have raised Jesus from the dead, help us to trust also for those whom we have loved and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;

Thank you for your promise of eternal life.

According to your promises, may we share with them in the joys of your kingdom, where there will be neither sorrow nor pain, but everlasting life.

Amen

Hymn For All the Saints God NCH #299

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 Deacons this morning are Liz Loomis and Marianne Round.

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.

You can **contribute to the work of First Parish Church** or pay your pledge **[@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.fpchurch.org)**.

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

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 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.

All Saints Soul Remembrances

First Parish members and flock –

Irene (Sandy) Andrews, July 3, 2021
Jill Benke, December 19, 2021
James Brady, February 17, 2021
Adella Brady, September 5, 2023
John Bradley, January 30, 2021
David Crosby, June 28, 2022
Laura Ells, January 31, 2023
Al Ireton, Nov. 14, 2021
Lawrence Kirby, August 20, 2023
Mary Kirby, December 6, 2022
Jens Kure-Jensen, February 18, 2021
Lise Kure-Jensen, June 5, 2021
Virginia McCoy, August 21, 2020
June Nickless, January 23, 2023
Lindsey Payne Welch, February 9, 2022
Georgia Pepper, June 6, 2023
Alice Strangman, June 17, 2023
Vincent Terrill, June 24, 2020,
Shirley Wilkinson, June 30, 2021

Family and friends of First Parish members and flock –

John Owen Becker, March 22, 2020, Maggie Michael's nephew
Lauren "Larry" Breakiron, March 8, 2022, Lauren Gudonis' father
Lloyd ("Skip") Breakiron, May 22, 2023, Lauren Gudonis' uncle
Alice Butz Moir, August 29, 2021, Allison Moir-Smith's mother
Muriel Duffy, October 24, 2022, Mary Ellen Cook's Aunt
Nancy Leavitt, September 15, 2023, friend of Jane Pearson's and others
Karla Moran, June 21, 2023, Lauren Gudonis' Aunt
Carolyn Joy Parker, Oct. 23, 2022, Muriel Parker's daughter-in-law, Susan and
Jeff Parker's sister-in-law

Ginny Pescosolido, February 11, 2023, Henry Lapham's sister
Evelyn Round, December 5, 2022, John Round's mother
Sarah Ellyn Smith, June 29, 2021, Richard Smith's mother
Suzy Smith, May 19, 2023, Penny Lapham's sister
Kathryn ("Kathy") Streaker, September 21, 2023, Fiona Casey's godmother
Frederick Charles Sullivan, June 9, 2022, Jill Auld's father
Mary Valentine, March 29, 2022, Anne D'Angelo's mother
Hugh Warren, June 22, 2021, Bruce Warren's father