



**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
November 19, 2023, 10 AM
Stewardship Sunday Worship**

Prelude Thanksgiving – George Winston (1949)

Welcome by Deacon

Call to Worship

L: Come to this house, this time, with an open heart. Let this gathering of fellow Christians remind us of the love of God.

P: God, be with us as we remember your abundance.

L: Generous One, we come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all we are and all that we have is a gift from you.

P: In faith and love, help us to do your will. We are listening. Speak your words into the depth of our souls, that we may hear you clearly.

L: We offer to you this day all the facets of our lives, whether it be at home, at work, or at school.

P: We seek to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Give us wisdom and insight, to understand your will for us and how to act in this world.

All: We offer our gifts of time, talent and possessions to you as a true act of faith, expressing our love for you and our neighbors. Help us to reach out to others as you have reached out to us.

Amen

Hymn TBA

Anthem Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake – Richard Farrant (1525-1580)

Lord, for Thy tender mercy's sake lay not our sins to our charge
but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives,
to decline from sin and incline to virtue that we may walk with a perfect
heart before Thee, now and forever more. Amen.

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 and Pledges

Prayer of Dedication and Litany of Thanksgiving and Consecration of our Pledges

Leader: For all that You have blessed us with to use in Your name and for the good of Your people;

People: We thank You, O God

Leader: Lead us to live each day with grateful hearts and open spirits;

People: So we can hear and answer Your call for our time and place.

Leader: Lead us to be a spiritual community that looks to heal the broken, care for the suffering, and help the lost find their way;

People: So we might best serve each other, our community, this nation, and Your world.

Leader: Lead us to practice the kind of giving and receiving relationships that bring us and others closer to wholeness;

People: Understanding that our ways are not always Yours, and that others have much to teach us.

Leader: And lead us, through the resources we pledge throughout this Stewardship season, to help You build and maintain at First Parish a place that will lift up generations of Your people to come;

People: A place that will celebrate each other's blessings, comfort each other's sorrows, forgive each other's failings, and bear each other's burdens. Amen.

Meditation Consideration – Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I have no one, to which I run, only the Lord whom I can turn. Lord, in your vast consideration, consider me. Tide rolling high billows defy, Lord, hear my pleading, don't pass me by. Lord, when you smile on all creation,

consider me. Mad winds may blow; mad breakers roar; they beat on every side. One thing I know and to be sure in Thee my soul can hide. When I'm alone without a home, friends and my loved ones all are gone. Lord, when you give out heav'n reservations, consider me. You know my need, you know my deeds, you know my wishes, let me succeed. Lord, when you bless those of the nation, consider me. When in the storm let me be calm, trusting Thy promise, do help me on. Lord, when the world break all relations, consider me. Lighten may flash; wild waves may dash; the tempest raging high. Send from above whispers of love; attend my feeble cry. The day will come, life will be done, Lord in your presence let me be one. Lord, when you give out heav'n reservations, consider me.

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once ¹⁶the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will

be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Sermon "Holy Use" Rev. Teri Motley

Anthem Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit – Spiritual, arr. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949) & William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

Paul Knox, solo

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain my Lord spoke, out of His mouth came fire and smoke;

Looked all around me, it looked so fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine.

Jordan river is chilly and cold, it chills the body, but not the soul;

There ain't but one train upon this track, it runs to heaven and right back.

Hymn TBA

Blessing

Closing Song God Bless You and Keep You – Jay Althouse (1951)

God bless you and keep you wherever you may go; His love be a constant companion. God lead you and guide you and be at your side. God bless you and keep you forever.

Join us following worship for hospitality! Today we will enjoy cake to celebrate Stewardship Sunday.

Our Deacon this morning is Nancy Peterson.

This morning we welcome Rev. Teri Motley. Rev. Teri Motley was raised in Minnesota, in a family which she describes as "strict atheist". Coming East to college, she moved with her first husband to Springfield Vermont, where she lived for over 20 years. In that time, she began her faith journey when she attended a UCC church, and then attended divinity school first in Bangor Maine, and then finishing her Masters in Divinity degree at Andover Newton Theological School, in Newton Massachusetts.

Moving with her second husband to Nahant, she was supported in her journey to ordination by the Nahant Village Church. She has served churches in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. She enjoys preaching and supporting the church in any way she can.

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

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

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.

Fall hands on Community Service, all items can be dropped at the Chapel or Church –

- **Operation Troop Support** Socks, any size any color. Small board and card games.
- **Thanksgiving Food Drive for The Open Door** Cereal, coffee & tea, granola bars, oatmeal, pancake & waffle mix, maple syrup, 100% fruit juice.
- **The Grace Center** Gift Cards from local grocery markets.
- **Toys for Tots** Ballet de Mar is collecting new toys for Christmas.

Our Advent theme from Rev. Rick Spalding - Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you... So affirms the beloved carol in whose shelter we gather ourselves together, each Advent - to wait and to wonder. The prophet Isaiah proclaims that God's name means "God with us". What are the implications of the with-ness of God - for each of us alone, for all of us together? How does the with-ness of God change our ways of being with each other? with ourselves? with the world? These are some of the questions we'll be pondering as we worship together during this momentous Advent at First Parish - on the cusp of an exciting new chapter in the life of our church, and a season of urgent need in the world. In light of everything that's going on around us, let's be sure to be **with** one another, and **with** God, as we prepare ourselves again through the month of December to receive *tidings of great joy which shall be to all people!*

December and Advent Activities

- **Sunday, Dec. 3, Community Carol Sing**, just before the Friendship Tree concert. 2:30-3:15 PM inside First Parish Church, 10 Central St. Join us around the piano to sing some traditional carols and get in the mood for the tree lighting. Happening no matter the weather.
- **Sunday, Dec. 10, the 2nd Community "Messiah Sing" will be presented in the Church.** This event is again being made possible by a bequest from Laura Ells, who was for many years a member of the First Parish Choir. It's open to the community, singers and listeners alike with a 14-piece orchestra and professional soloists. Described - "The whole idea is that people who may or may not know each other will spontaneously get together with professionals to

create something beautiful.” Bring your Messiah score, we will have scores available. If you missed it last year, don’t let that happen again! A reception will follow in the Chapel Hall, a donation of \$20 per person at the door is welcome.

- **Poinsettias**, the Deacons will once again offer the opportunity to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas. Order [online here](#) or use the enclosed order form.
- **Christmas Eve 5 PM** service needs 5 actors, three men and two women. The women will portray Mary at two different times in her journey and the two men will accompany her as the role of Joseph. One man will portray Jesus. Our renowned soloists will give us two beautiful selections in Part One of the script and the actors will be engaged in short conversation. Our two youngest church members will portray the expectant Mary and Joseph, with Jesus as Narrator for that part of the script, entitled, Looking Back is Looking Forward. Please see Jeanne or contact her at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com if you would like to help present a version of the Greatest Story Ever Told!
- **Christmas Eve 7:30 PM** Traditional Candlelight open to all!

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

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

Thursday Bible Study with Elsa Marshall 4 PM Join in a lively discussion, Thursdays, 4 PM, on Zoom.

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.

Our Online Prayer Wall Request prayers and pray for others
<https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>

The Stephen Ministry Learn more call Linda Crosby at 978-314-1526 or Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.

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

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.

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!

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>

First Parish is looking for help with streaming our worship services.

Can you volunteer? Full training is provided! Sign up here or contact Richard Smith at richard.w.smith@gmail.com.

Book Group 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.

Monday, 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*.