



**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
February 11, 2024, 10 AM**

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude from "From the Southland": 1. Through Moanin' Pines; 2. In de Col' Moonlight - Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Please maintain a prayerful quiet during the prelude as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Call to Worship

One: God, you bring us together in this place,

**Many: We come to be fed,
To be renewed,
To seek understanding.**

One: God, you challenge us in this place,

**Many: We embrace the challenge,
Trusting that through challenge we grow in faith.**

One: God, you are revealed in this place,

**Many: Sometimes in shining glory,
Sometimes in tears and struggle.**

One: God as we worship in this place,

**Many: Refresh, renew, and challenge us
So that we would see your awesomeness.**

Welcome

First Parish Church is rooted in the Congregational tradition of democratic governance and the full inclusion and participation of all who call this their spiritual home. We take seriously the responsibility to make the Christian faith our own in this time and place, and seek to live lives of generous service.

*** Hymn We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding #182 NCH**

Sunday school students leave for the classrooms after the hymn.

*** Prayer of Invocation**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem If Ye Love Me – Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another comforter, the He may bide with you forever, ev'n the spirit of truth.

Prayer Intentions

Pastoral 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.

Meditation Mondnacht (Moonlit Night), from Liederkreis, op. 39 – Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Sung in German. translation: It was as though Heaven had softly kissed the Earth, so that she in a gleam of blossom had only to dream of him. The breeze passed through the fields, the corn swayed gently to and fro, the forests murmured softly, the night was so clear with stars. And my soul spread her wings out wide, flew across the silent land, as though flying home.

Scripture Reading Mark 9:2-9 Jane Pearson

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Sermon “Transfigured and Transformed” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Jesus, on the Mountain Peak – Michael Burkhardt (1957); words by Brian Wren

Jesus, on the mountain peak, stands alone in glory blazing. Let us, if we dare to speak. Join the saints and angels praising: Alleluia! Trembling at His feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking. All the Prophets and the Law shout through them their joyful greeting: Alleluia! Swift the cloud of glory came, God, proclaiming in its thunder, Jesus as the Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder: Alleluia! Jesus is the closed One, living hope of ev'ry nation, hear and heed Him, ev'ryone; sing, with earth and all creation, Alleluia!

*** Doxology #780 NCH**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

*** Hymn Be Now My Vision #451 NCH**

*** Blessing**

Closing Song Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God) – Zulu Song, arr. Doreen Rao

** Indicates the congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

Our Deacon is Liz Loomis.

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.

Join us following worship for hospitality!

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.

Ash Wednesday Feb.14, 6:30 – 7pm

We will begin the church season of Lent with a traditional Ash Wednesday Service. The observance of Ash Wednesday became part of the Christian tradition back in the sixth century. In the aftermath of the Protestant Reformation, many non-Catholic churches stopped observing Ash Wednesday. In recent years Protestant churches have gone back to this early practice as a way of recovering some of the power of the Lenten Season. A spirit of introspection and repentance can easily be lost in our fast-paced world. When we observe Ash Wednesday and receive the ashes, we are reminded that our time on earth is limited and that the purpose of our life extends beyond this earthly realm.

Sunday Worship Series: Living Our Faith in Worship Feb.18 – Mar. 17, 10am

Lent is a season of preparation, when we strive to strengthen our discipleship skills, grow in our spiritual lives, and renew our connection to God and one another. During these six weeks we will explore a different spiritual discipline, Worship, Study, Service, Giving and Witness and how it informs and shapes our worship. Everything we do in worship is done for a purpose, and has a deep meaning rooted in scripture and tradition. Our worship is more meaningful, and we can participate more fully when these intentions are clear.

Weekly Lenten Group Study Series, Spiritual Practices to Deepen Our Faith, Mondays, 5 - 6pm on Zoom

Focusing on five central spiritual practices: Worship, Study, Serve, Give, and Witness. Each week we will explore a scripture passage related to the topic and highlight practical suggestions for ways to grow in these disciplines. This study draws on resources from "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton. No preparation is required, but there is an accompanying book that is available to those who are interested.

Vespers Evening Prayer Service, Wednesdays, 6:30pm

Meditation, candlelight and prayer. Based upon the traditional evening liturgy of scripture, music, prayers, and silence, this thirty-minute candlelit service is open to all.

Weekly At-Home Devotional: "Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent" Available in the Narthex and in the Weekly E-News The word "Lent" comes from the old English word for "lengthen," and refers to the lengthening days of spring. Anticipating Easter, the church prepares with forty days of prayer and reflection. We are called to set time apart, to observe a sabbath each week, when we pause from the busyness of our lives and clear space to reconnect - with ourselves, with nature, with beauty, and with God. The poet Wendell Berry calls "the idea of sabbath...as rich and demanding an idea as any I know" – and over the

decades, Berry has devoted many Sundays to writing “sabbath poems” that explore the depths of this rich, demanding idea. In this Lenten devotional, biblical texts walk hand-in-hand with Berry’s sabbath vision of the natural world, and together they suggest simple, accessible practices you can try yourself, with your family or friends, in your workplace, or even at church. Week by week, as the light continues to lengthen, we’ll walk through the woods together toward Easter morning, keeping sabbath as we go. This devotional is produced by the SALT Project.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24th at 10am

Maundy Thursday, March 27th at 7pm

Good Friday, March 28th at Noon

Easter, March 31

Ecumenical Sunrise Service

6:26am at Singing Beach

Easter at First Parish at 10am

Faith Formation

Sunday School is available every Sunday except for Communion Sunday. Know of a family that might like to join us? Invite them to come and try out a Sunday School session. It’s fun in a faith-filled fantastic way!

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

Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee and Conversation Every Monday 10 AM-12:00 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>

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

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

The Stephen Ministry at First Parish is Live

A Soup and Conversation describing this initiative in detail will be

presented at a later date. A Stephen Minister's objective is not to "solve" the challenge but rather to ensure that none feel alone in their struggles. If you are interested in participating or are aware of any individual in the congregation who might benefit from our care, please feel free to contact Stephen Leaders Linda Crosby at 978-314-1526 or Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.

Book Group February 26, 6:30 PM, we meet at Meredith Tufts' home, 3 Woodholm Circle, Manchester. We will discuss "Beyond That, the Sea" by Laura Spence-Ash. RSVP to Meredith at (978) 500-5439 or mpt32150@gmail.com.

March 25, 7 PM at Lauren Gudonis' home, 56 Masconomo St. Manchester. We will discuss "Hang the Moon" by Jeanette Walls. RSVP to Lauren at lbgudonis@gmail.com.

A riveting new novel about an indomitable young woman in Virginia during Prohibition. Most folk thought Sallie Kincaid was a nobody who'd amount to nothing. Sallie had other plans.

Sallie Kincaid is the daughter of the biggest man in a small town, the charismatic Duke Kincaid. Born at the turn of the 20th century into a life of comfort and privilege, Sallie remembers little about her mother who died in a violent argument with the Duke. By the time she is just eight years old, the Duke has remarried and had a son, Eddie. While Sallie is her father's daughter, sharp-witted and resourceful, Eddie is his mother's son, timid and cerebral. When Sallie tries to teach young Eddie to be more like their father, her daredevil coaching leads to an accident, and Sallie is cast out. Nine years later, she returns, determined to reclaim her place in the family. That's a lot more complicated than Sallie expected, and she enters a world of conflict and lawlessness. Sallie confronts the secrets and scandals that hide in the shadows of the Big House, navigates the factions in the family and town, and finally comes into her own as a bold, sometimes reckless bootlegger.

You will fall in love with Sallie Kincaid, a feisty and fearless, terrified and damaged young woman who refuses to be corralled. goodreads

April 29, 6:30 PM, we will discuss the book of Genesis at Liz Loomis' home, 34 Bennett St. Manchester. RSVP to Liz at loomisliz@hotmail.com.

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