



**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  
January 14, 2024, 10 AM**

**Prelude** Precious Lord, Take My Hand – Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993),  
arr. Brent Edstrom

**Welcome by Deacon**

**Call to Worship** from Psalm 139

One: We've come to worship God,

**Many: Who loved us before we were yet born,**

One: Who knows us even better than we know ourselves,

**Many: Whose presence never leaves us,  
and whose love for us never ceases.**

One: This is our God.

**Many: Let's worship together!**

**Hymn** What a Covenant #471 NCH

**Anthem** Steal Away – spiritual, arr. Nicholas White

Chorus: Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus, Steal away, steal  
away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

Verse: My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the thunder; the trumpet  
sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

Chorus:

Verse: Green trees are bendin', poor sinners stand a-tremblin'; the trumpet  
sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

Chorus:

**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**

**Meditation** My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord – spiritual, arr. Florence Price

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

In de Lord, in de Lord, my soul's been anchored in de Lord. Befo' I'd stay in hell one day, my soul's been anchored in de Lord; I'd sing an' pray myself away, my soul's been anchored in de Lord; O Lord, my soul's been anchored in de Lord. I'm goin' to pray an' never stop, my soul's been anchored in de Lord; until I've reached the mountain top, my soul's been anchored in de Lord; O Lord, my soul's been anchored in de Lord. In de Lord, in de Lord, my soul's been anchored in de Lord; God knows my soul's been anchored in de Lord.

## **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Scripture Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-10 Jeff Bodmer-Turner**

<sup>1</sup> Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup> the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

### **Sermon "Called by a Still-Speaking God" Rev. Katherine Schofield**

**Anthem** The Storm is Passing Over – Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933), arr. Barbara W. Baker

Have courage my soul and let us journey on. Though the night is dark and I am far from home. Thanks be to God – the morning light appears! The storm is passing over – Hallelu. Hallelujah, the storm is passing over!

**Hymn** Precious Lord, Take My Hand #472 NCH

## **Blessing**

**Closing Song** The Peace of the Earth – words and music Guatemalan traditional

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too; the peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans too. Deep peace falling over you; God's peace growing in you.

**Our Deacons this morning are Susan Parker and Jan Marshall.**

**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.

**Join us following worship for hospitality!**

**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.
- **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.

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.firstparishchurch.org)**.

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.

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

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

**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.

**The Seaside Parish Knitters** meets each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm. Jan. 4 & 18. 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.

Use the links below to **learn more about First Parish Church** online  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/](http://www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/)  
Instagram [www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/](http://www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/)  
Website [www.firstparishchurch.org/](http://www.firstparishchurch.org/)  
YouTube Worship Services  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvfURhmsH8lfE13FLaRtWcw-pOTC9T2h>

### **First Parish Staff**

Rev. Katherine Schofield, Pastor, [revkatherine.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:revkatherine.fpchurch@gmail.com)

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Nancy Klebart, Office Manager, [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto: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!

**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.

**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.

## **The Stephen Ministry at First Parish Goes Live in the New Year**

We are pleased to report that the First Parish Stephen Ministry completed the training of its first cohort of eight Stephen Ministers the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This group stands ready to support Rev. Katherine and other care functions at First Parish by providing confidential one on one spiritual support to parishioners dealing with life challenges such as bereavement, divorce, or terminal illness. The Stephen Ministry will of course work with all elements of the lay leadership to identify any among us could use additional emotional and spiritual support from the Church.

We salute the following members of the congregation who beginning in the summer have participated in the thirty hours of the rigorous training prescribed for Stephen Ministers:

Martha Farmer  
Diane Houghton  
Paul Lengieza  
Sue Parker  
Marianne Round  
Rebecca Shrimpton  
Richard Smith  
Jeanne Westcott

The team is currently working with Rev. Katherine to ensure that the service will be fully functioning in the New Year. The Stephen Ministers will be formally commissioned at the regular Sunday service on February 4. 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. To date, the movement includes about 13,000 congregations and has trained 75,000 Stephen Leaders who have in turn trained 600,000 Stephen Ministers. Fuller details on the movement are here: [Stephen Ministries](#)

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.

**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>

## Connecting with Rev. Katherine

I am so excited to get to know all the people who make up the First Parish Church, Manchester-by-the-Sea community. Ministry, and life as a faith community, are built on relationship. Please fill out this brief form to tell me a bit more about yourself. If you find that you have a lot to say - great! Write it down. If you find you have more to say than your fingers can write - great! Let's set up a time to talk.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or preferred method of contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

In what ways are you engaged at First Parish Church?

Are there ways you'd like to get more involved?

What are some of your hobbies or pastimes? Special skills?

What community organizations are you a part of?

Prayer Requests?

Anything else you think I should know?

Come by for a visit!

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10a-2p Chapel Office, Thursdays 10a-12p @ Laughing Gull

**Your Stewardship Committee would like to remind you to fulfill your pledge commitment for 2023 to help us close out the year. We also invite you to pledge for 2024 so the Trustees can continue planning for First Parish's activities in 2024.**

**First Parish Church Annual Fund Drive 2024**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Pledge for 2024** \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your pledge*

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as indeed you are doing."  
1 Thessalonians 5:11



Please use the enclosed pre-stamped envelope to return your pledge or bring to Church on Pledge Sunday, November 19

Questions? Contact Mary Ellen Cook or David Lumsden.