



**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 21, 2024, 10 AM**

**Prelude** Passacaglia – Andre Raison (1650-1740)

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: A wind breathes among us,

**Many: Calling us to gather in the name of the Holy One.**

One: A fire burns within us,

**Many: Calling us to service, calling us to prayer.**

One: A spirit moves around us,

**Many: Calling us to turn in joy toward the sorrows of the world.**

One: Burning, breathing, Spirit of Compassion,

**Many: We bring our lives to you.**

**Hymn** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing #42 NCH

**Anthem** A Winter Carol - Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010), poem by Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow has left the heav'ns all coldly clear;  
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow, and all the earth lies dead  
and drear. And yet God's love is not withdrawn; His life within the keen air  
breathes;  
His beauty paints the crimson dawn, and clothes the boughs with glittering  
wreaths. And though abroad the sharp winds blow, and skies are chill, and  
frosts are keen, Home closer draws her circle now, and warmer glows her  
light within.

O God! Who giv'st the winter's cold as well as summer's joyous rays,  
Us warmly in Thy love enfold, and keep us through life's wintry days.

**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** A Simple Song (from 'Mass') - Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and Leonard Bernstein

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Sing God a simple song: Lauda, Laude. Make it up as you go along Lauda, Laude. Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things, for God is the simplest of all. I will sing the Lord a new song to praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord. I will sing His praises while I live all of my days. Blessed is the one who loves the Lord, blessed is the one who praises Him. Lauda, Lauda, Laude... And walks in His ways. I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help. I will lift up my voice to the Lord, singing Lauda, Laude; for the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand, and the sun shall not smite me by day, nor the moon by night. Blessed is the one who loves the Lord, Lauda, Lauda, Lauden and walks in His ways. Lauda, Lauda, Laude, Lauda, Lauda di da di day... All of my days.

## **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Scripture Reading Mark 1:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

## **Sermon "The Time is Now" Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Anthem** Hem of Your Robe – Pepper Choplin (1957)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

When our worship moves higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. When our worship moves higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. For all heaven's praise and all heaven's songs make all our humble worship seem lowly. For our highest praise and our highest songs are just a tiny glimpse of Your glory and Your pow'r. When we're bowing lower, let us touch the hem of Your robe. When we're bowing lower, let us touch the hem of Your robe. For all heaven's praise and all heaven's songs make all our humble worship seem lowly. For our highest praise and our highest songs are just a tiny glimpse of Your glory and Your pow'r. Lord, You lift us higher, Lord, You lift us higher, Lord, You lift us higher, let us touch the hem of Your



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).

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

**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)

Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music, [hweiss05@comcast.net](mailto:hweiss05@comcast.net)

Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

[jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com)

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>

**WARRANT FOR ANNUAL MEETING**  
***First Parish Church, Congregational***  
**United Church of Christ**  
**Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts**  
**February 4, 2024**

TO: Active Members of the First Parish Church, Congregational, United Church of Christ, Manchester-By-The-Sea, Massachusetts.

You are hereby notified to meet **in the Church or Zoom Conferencing** immediately following Worship Service on Sunday, February 4, 2024 for the following purposes:

To wit:

**ARTICLE I:** To accept the report of the first combined annual and financial meeting, held on February 12, 2023

**ARTICLE II:** To accept the report of the Special Meeting held on September 17, 2023.

**ARTICLE III:** To hear the recommendations of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers, board and committee members of the church.

**ARTICLE IV:** To see what action the Church will take in regard to the budget proposal for 2024 as submitted by the Church Council.

**ARTICLE V:** To hear and act upon the reports of officers, boards, committees, and organizations connected with the church.

**ARTICLE VI:** To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Church Council that the regular Sunday Service from July 7 to September 1 inclusive, shall start at 9:00 a.m.

**ARTICLE VII:** To hear and act upon any other business, financial or otherwise, that may come before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted;  
George A Nickless, Clerk