



**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 28, 2024, 10 AM**

Prelude Nocturne in E Flat, op. 9, #2 – Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

**Many: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

One: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

**Many: Happy are those whose strength is in you,
In whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

One: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the LORD withhold.

Many: O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Hymn Bring Many Names, #11, NCH

Sunday school students leave for the classrooms after the hymn

Anthem Teach Me, O Lord – Thomas Attwood (1765—1838) , text from
Psalm 119:3

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

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 You've Got a Friend – Carole King (1942)

Paul Knox, solo

Verse: When you're down and troubled and need some love and care and
nothin', nothin' is goin' right, close your eyes and think of me and soon I will
be there to brighten up even your darkest night.

Chorus: You just call out my name and you know wherever I am I'll come runnin' to see you again. Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you have to do is call and I'll be there. You've got a friend.

Verse: If the sky above you grows dark and full of clouds and that ol' north wind begins to blow, keep you head together and call my name aloud; soon you'll hear me knockin' at your door.

Chorus: You just call out my name and you know wherever I am I'll come runnin' to see you again. Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you have to do is call and I'll be there, yes, I will.

Bridge: Now ain't it good to know that you've got a friend when people can be so cold? They'll hurt you, yes, and desert you and take your soul if you let them. Oh, but don't you let them.

Chorus: You just call out my name and you know wherever I am I'll come runnin' to see you again. Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you have to do is call and I'll be there. You've got a friend. Ain't it good to know you've got a friend.

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading Luke 2:22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's

Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years

after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon “Holding the Future in Our Hands” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Anthem May It Be (from The Lord of the Rings) – Enya (1961), lyrics by Roma Ryan; arr. Mark A. Brymer

May it be an evening star shines down upon you. May it be when darkness falls, your heart will be true. You walk a lonely road; oh, how far you are from home. *Mor-ni-e u-tu li-e. Believe and you will find your way. **Mor-ni-e a-lan-ti-e. A promise lives within you now. May it be the shadow's call will fly away. May it be you journey on to light the day. When the night is overcome, you may rise to find the sun. *Mor-ni-e u-tu li-e. Believe and you will find your way. **Mor- ni-e a-lan-ti-e. A promise lives within you now.
*darkness has come, in Quenya
** darkness has fallen, in Quenya

Hymn Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing, #77, 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 are Liz Loomis and Marianne Round.

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!

Save the date - the FPC Annual Meeting will be held following worship on Feb. 4, see the warrant on the last page of the bulletin.

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

Coming up for Lent

The Season of Lent will begin with a traditional Ash Wednesday service, in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 14th from 6:30 – 7 PM.

Weekly Vespers Services: Wednesdays, 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Weekly Lenten Group Study Series on Five Spiritual Disciplines That Draw Us Closer to God: Mondays, 5-6 PM on Zoom

Weekly At-Home Devotional: “Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent”

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** Baking mixes, pancake & waffle mix, maple syrup, 100% fruit juice.
- **The Grace Center** Gift Cards from local grocery markets.

The Seaside Parish Knitters meets each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm. Feb. 1 & 15. 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/

Instagram www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/

Website 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. Drop-in office hours, Chapel, Tues. 10 -3 and at Laughing Gull, Thurs. 10 -12.

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

Our Online Prayer Wall Request prayers and pray for others

<https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>

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, 6:30 PM, 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.

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](https://www.paypal.com/payto?username=@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester).

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.

Faith Formation

The Youth Fellowship program will host an intergenerational Valentines Creation Workshop in Chapel Hall on Sunday evening, Feb 4, 6:30 - 7:30 PM, come and create one or more works of Valentine beauty to benefit the COA. Make one for your sweetheart as well. Snacks, and all materials will be available so come if your medium is crayons or come if your textile guru! All are welcome.

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!

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.

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