



**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
June 2, 2024, 10:00 am

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Solveig's Song (from 'Peer Gynt') - Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

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

*** Call to Worship (Responsively)**

One: Gather us in,
the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking,
the tired and aching, who long for the nourishment held in your hands.

Many: Gather us in,

One: the done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering,
the puzzled and pondering, who long for the company held in your hands.

Many: Gather us in,

One: the proud and pretentious, the sure and superior,
the never inferior, who long for the leveling held in your hands.

Many: Gather us in,

One: the bright and the bustling, the stirrers, the shakers,
the kind laughter-makers, who long for the deeper joys held in your hands.

Many: Gather us in.

One: From corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite,
to meet, to greet, be given a seat,
be joined to the vine, be offered new wine,
become like the least to be found at the feast.

Many: Gather us in!

One: God, break into our lives again,

Many: And use the gifts within us to transform the world once more.

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 Renew Your Church, #311, NCH**

Sunday school students stay in worship today.

*** Prayer of Invocation**

Anthem Beautiful Savior – arr. Michael Burkhardt (1957)

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flowers of Spring:

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels in the sky. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine!

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 Bagatelle in G, op. 126, #5 – L. van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Reading Mark 3:20 -35 Heather Reid

²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." ²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." ²³ And he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if

Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸ "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin"— ³⁰ for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers^l are outside asking for you." ³³ And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Sermon " The Ties That Bind " Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem We Walk by Faith – Kenneth T. Kosche (1947)

We walk by faith and not by sight; No gracious words we hear from Christ, who spoke as none ever spoke; but we believe Him near. We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where he trod; but in His promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!" Help then, O Lord, our faith abound to call on You where You are found: that when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light we may behold You with full and endless sight.

*** 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.**

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to God!

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Breaking, Pouring, and Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

God most generous and kind.

The reach of your mercy is endless.

You find us all, wherever we are,

And bring us to your table.

Your guest list is as unrestricted as your love.

For the gracious welcome we have all received,

Whether we came first or last, early or late,

With hands full of gifts, or with nothing at all,

Thank you, Lord, thank you.

Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn Not My Brother, nor My Sister, #519, NCH

* Blessing

Closing Song God Be with You – Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

God be with you 'till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'till we meet again.

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

Our Deacons are Liz Loomis and Jan Marshall .

Welcome to all who are new to our Worship time.

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.

Faith Formation Opportunities for All Ages

Through study and prayer and service, we aspire to love God “with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.” From the youngest toddlers, to the wisest Elders, we each are called to grow in our faith and understanding.

Sunday School - During Worship (except for Communion Sundays)

Our kids engage in hands-on, age-appropriate learning opportunities that integrate storytelling, the arts and spiritual development in a safe and family-friendly environment.

Youth Group - Gathers monthly for service projects, arts and crafts, and social events.

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study – Will now meet on Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45p via Zoom. We study scripture together, utilizing resources from a variety of traditions, and seeking meaning for our daily lives.

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 x 1. You can **contribute to the work of First Parish Church** or pay your pledge **@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester**

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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

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm, (May 2 & 16). We welcome all to stop by anytime during that time. 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.

First Parish Stephen Ministers are highly trained lay volunteers who stand ready to provide confidential, one on one presence and counsel for anyone facing a life challenge such as divorce, job loss, major illness, or bereavement, under the direction of our Minister. This service also provides referrals to local agencies which can provide tangible assistance for needs such as housing, energy, or medical care. This program is part of the national interdenominational Christian movement described here: stephenministries.org. If you or anyone you know might benefit from this service, please contact Rev. Katherine or Stephen Leaders Linda Crosby (978-314-1526) and Steve Carhart (978-407-8454).



First Parish has ongoing collections for The Open Door Pantry items including baking mixes of all kinds . Operation Troop Support Socks, and small board and card games. The Grace Center Gift Cards from local grocery markets for perishables like cream, butter, milk .

Drop items at the Chapel (inside and outside bins available) and at the Church.

Book Group News - June 24, 6:30 PM, we will discuss “Mercury Pictures Presents” by Anthony Marra at Carol Spence's home, 4 Overledge Rd.

RSVP to Carol at cdspence@gmail.com

July is a free month. Have fun reading whatever you like.

August 26, 6:30 PM, We will discuss “A True Account” by Katherine Howe at Mary Ellen's home, 23 Harold St. Manchester. RSVP to Mary Ellen at cook.maryellen7@gmail.com.

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



Fair by the Sea, Saturday, August 3rd during The Festival by the Sea with proceeds to benefit local organizations.

Thanks to everyone who is interested in helping with the Fair. It is great to see the enthusiasm for another Fair by the Sea!

Here are the current details and what we are looking for this year-

Community Yard Sale

In July we will accept items (see the list below) on Weds. afternoons and after Church on Sundays, time TBA, at the Chapel Hall. Look around your homes and start collecting items to donate!

The famous Jewelry Table will once again be our featured hot spot. Contact Martha Elder or Sue Parker to donate. NO clip-on earrings please!!

Baked and home-grown treats needed.

Silent Auction – can you donate items for a themed basket? We also need large baskets.

We need someone to redesign our large wooden sign that we set up on the Library wall? Are you creative, love to paint?

Yard Sale items accepted -

Handbags

Accessories

Home décor, including all holidays

Housewares

Art

Bric-a-brac

Linens

Please no appliances, furniture, stuffed toys!

Books should be donated to the Library for their Book Sale.

Questions can be directed to Bethany at bethany@bmwoodsllc.com or Nancy office.fpchurch@gmail.com