



**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  
Mother's Day  
May 12, 2024, 10:00 am

**Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles**

**Prelude** Heliotrope Bouquet – Louis Chauvin (1881-1908) and Scott Joplin (1868-1917)

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

**\* Call to Worship**

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!**

**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.*

**Presentation of the Mother's Day Flowers Allison Moir-Smith**

**Blessing of the Flowers (Unison)**

God of sun and rain, light and shadow, surf and sand, we are reminded of your artistry as we behold this stunning array of flowers before us – every one its own form and color just as we too are our own unique being. We pray your blessing on each person that is represented by these blossoms and give thanks in turn, for the blessings they have bestowed upon us. We are grateful for the way our lives have been shaped by these mothering figures and send a

silent “thank you” to them for their kindness, challenges, support, and love. Amen

\*Hymn Rejoice, You Pure in Heart - #55, NCH

*Sunday school students leave for the classrooms after the hymn.*

## **Passing of the Peace**

**Anthem** Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing – Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Now let us all praise God and sing Our great redeemer's praise; that we may all with one accord Our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!

All ye servants of the Lord, Praise Him forever, sing Jehovah's mighty power, Praise Him forever. Sing of His righteousness, Praise Him forever.

So let us all praise God and Sing Our great Redeemer's praise; that we may all with one accord Our joyful voices raise.

**Sing Alleluia!**

## **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 temptat ion, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Meditation** To My Little Son – Florence B. Price (1887-1953), text: Julia Johnson Davis

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

In your face I sometimes see shadowings of the man to be and eager dream of what my son shall be, dream of what my son will be in twenty years and one. When you are to manhood grown and all your manhood ways are known, then shall I wistful try to trace the child you nonce were in your face.

## **Scripture Reading Helena Turner**

### **Acts 16:13 -15**

<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

### **Romans 16:1 -7**

<sup>1</sup> I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, <sup>2</sup> so that you may welcome her in the Lord, as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

<sup>3</sup> Greet Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, <sup>4</sup> who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but also all the churches of the gentiles. <sup>5</sup> Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. <sup>6</sup> Greet Mary, who has worked very hard for you. <sup>7</sup> Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Israelites who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

## **Sermon "Mothers of the Faith " Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** Walk, While You Have the Light – Hank Beebe (1926);  
text: John 35-36

Walk, while you have the light, now that you see the light, now lest the darkness cometh upon you; for they that walketh in the darkness knoweth not where they goeth, for a little while walk, while you have the light, see, you can see the light, go, though the doom of darkness be on you. Walk, while you have the light, and you'll see that you have the light, and believe that the light will guide you forever. Walk, while you have the light. Walk, while you have the light, now that you see the light, now lest the darkness

cometh upon you; for they that walketh in the darkness knoweth not where they goeth, for a little while walk, while you have the light, see, you can see the light, go, though the doom of darkness be on you. Walk, while you have the light, and you'll see that you have the light, and believe that the light will guide you forever. Walk, while you have the light.

Closing Song – May the Road Rise Up to Meet You – Robert Lau (1943)  
May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. And until we meet again, may God hold you in His hand. Amen.

**\* 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.**

**\* Hymn Blessed Be the Tie That Binds - #393, 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.

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

**Our Deacon is Janet Groth .**

**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](http://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** - May 27, 6:30 PM, we will discuss “The Women” by Kristen Hannah at Nancy Peterson's home, 111 Chebacco Rd. South Hamilton. RSVP to Nancy at [nancypete1@gmail.com](mailto:nancypete1@gmail.com)

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](mailto: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](mailto:cook.maryellen7@gmail.com).

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

**Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee** and Conversation Every Monday 10 AM-12:00 PM (except holidays) at the First Parish Community Hall. Hospitality provided by The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging. Come sit down and talk!



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

Thanks to everyone who attended our Fair get together last Saturday. It was 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](mailto:bethany@bmwoodsllc.com) or Nancy [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com)