



**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
May 19, 2024, 10:00 am

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Holy Spirit, Hear Us – Newman Powell (1919-2004)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!

Many: For God has done wondrous things for us.

One: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do.

Many: For Christ has called each of us and blessed us!

One: Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today.

Many: Help us to boldly proclaim Your Good News. Amen.

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** Great Is Your Faithfulness - #423, NCH

Sunday school students leave for the classrooms after the hymn.

Prayer of Invocation

Passing of the Peace

Anthem When the Stars Are Gone – Henry Mollicone (1946 – 2022) words by Robert Louis Stevenson

The stars shine over the mountains, the stars shine over the sea, the stars look up to the mighty God, the stars look down on me; the stars shall last

for a million years, a million years and a day, but God and I will live and love when the stars have passed away.

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 Shall We Gather at the River— Robert Lowry (1826-1899), arr. Greg Howlett

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Reading Acts 2:1 -21 Liz Loomis

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." ¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you,

and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Sermon "Found in Translation " Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem There Is a Balm in Gilead – spiritual, arr. William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Chorus: There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Verse: Some times I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Chorus:

Verse: If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say "He died for all".

Chorus:

** 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.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn Sweet, Sweet Spirit - #293, 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 Liz Loomis .

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.

Next Sunday, May 26th we are excited to welcome back to the pulpit Rev. Dave VanArsdale whose sermon will be "Gone, But Not Forgotten", based on John 17:6 -19

Children's Sunday, June 16th - Help us celebrate the children and youth who bring such joy and energy to our church family. And say thank you to the teachers and volunteers who encourage and guide our church school.

Upcoming Community Events

May 27th - Memorial Day Services and Parade. Waterside service at MBTS Legion Post, starting at 9am, immediately followed by the Parade to Rosedale and Union Cemeteries.

June 1st - MBTS Pride Flag Raising, 9am at Town Hall Green

June 2nd - Ballet del Mar "Sea Cruise" Recital, 11am at Pingree School (wave to our church school friends who will be dancing)

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](https://www.paypal.com/payto?toolid=0&to=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](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, (June 6 & 20). 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 - 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

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.



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 or Nancy office.fpchurch@gmail.com