



**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 26, 2024, 10:00 am

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart – Frederick C. Atkinson
(1841-1896), arr. Lloyd Larson

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

*** Call to Worship (Responsively)**

Let the earth rejoice; our God reigns! Let all people be glad!
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne.
For God is exalted over all the earth.

We affirm God's sovereignty upon God's church and upon God's people.

Come to celebrate the abundance of life through God our Savior.
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.

Welcome by Deacon

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 For All the Saints - #299, NCH**

Sunday school students leave for the classrooms after the hymn.

*** Prayer of Invocation**

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard Your invitation. We sense that You alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment You provide as we come to worship You. Open our hearts to receive all You offer. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Solo I Want to be Ready – Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Paul Knox, solo

I want to be ready, my Lord, to walk in Jerusalem, just like John. John said the city was just four-square, walk in Jerusalem, just like John. I want to be ready, my Lord, to walk in Jerusalem, just like John. When Peter was preaching at Pentecost, walk in Jerusalem, just like John. He was endowed with the Holy Ghost, walk in Jerusalem, just like John. I want to be ready, my Lord, to walk in Jerusalem, just like John.

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 The Things Our Fathers Loved – Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I think there must be a place in the soul all made of tunes, of tunes of long ago;

I hear the organ on the Main Street corner, Aunt Sarah humming Gospels; Summer evenings, the village cornet band, playing in the square. The town's Red, White and Blue, all Red, White and Blue; Now! Hear the words, but they sing in my soul of the things our Fathers loved.

Scripture Reading John 17:6-19

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because

they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Sermon "Gone, But Not Forgotten" Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Built on a Rock the Church Shall Stand – Dale Wood (1934 – 2003)

Built on a Rock the Church shall stand, even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, bells still are chiming and calling.

*** 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 (Read in Unison)

Loving God, we have so many reasons to say "thank You" to You. Your generosity, grace, and mercy are astounding, and we pray that the gifts we offer in worship and throughout the week might be used in Your name. Help us to be generous with our money, but also with our

talents and time. Strengthen us to recognize Your blessings, to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. Amen.

*** Hymn** The Church's One Foundation - #386, NCH

*** Blessing**

Closing Song 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

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

Our Deacons are Paul Gudonis and Marianne Round.

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.

Our Preacher today is Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale. Dave retired in 2013 after 41 years in ministry, which started with Ordination in Edwards U.C.C. in Framingham and concluded as Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City, AZ. Ellen and Dave have become a part of the South Church (U.C.C.) in Andover since moving five years ago from Arizona to the Edgewood Retirement Community in North Andover. They are parents of

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.

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 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