



**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
March 10, 2024, 10 AM**

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Andante, from Piano Concerto #2 in F, op. 102 -Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

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

***Call to Worship**

One: In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

Many: We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

One: All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

Many: Love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.

One: We come, hearts brimming with gratitude, not for things, but for who God is.

Many: We gather to show our thanks in song and prayer.

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** Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days - #211, NCH

Sunday school students leave for the classrooms after the hymn.

***Prayer of Invocation**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem Canon of Praise – Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), arr. Hal Hopson (1933)

All within me bless the Lord, all within me bless His holy name.

O hear, you righteous, know that the Lord is good.

With truth, with hope, He crowns with truth.

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 My Way's Cloudy – Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Chorus: Oh! brethren, my way, my way's cloudy, my way, go send them angels down. Oh! brethren, my way, my way's cloudy, my way, go send them angels down.

Verse: This is the year of jubilee, send them angels down,
The Lord has come and set us free, o send them angels down.

Chorus:

Verse: Old Satan's mad, and I am glad, send them angels down,
he missed the soul he thought he had, o send them angels down.

Chorus:

Scripture Reading Galatians 6: 1-10 Jane Pearson

¹ My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴ All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵ For all must carry their own loads.

⁶ Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

Sermon "All Good Gifts" Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Awake, My Soul, and Sing – Allen Pote (1945 – 2010)

text: based on Psalms 71 & 108

Awake, my soul, and sing; arise and sing a psalm. For great are you, Lord, and great Your love; Your kindness is forever. You have been my hope, my confidence since my youth. I will proclaim Your marvelous deeds. I will ever sing praises. Even when I am growing old, do not forsake me, O God. I will declare Your strength and power to the next generation, to all who are to come. Awake, my soul, and sing. Arise and sing a psalm. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, your glory over all the earth. You have been my rock, my fortress, and my shield. I will ever praise Your name, for you are my God. Awake, my soul, and sing. Arise and sing a psalm. Great are You, Lord, and great Your love. You are my God! Awake, my soul, awake, my soul, and sing!

*** 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** On a Hill Far Away (The Old Rugged Cross) - #195, NCH

*** Blessing**

Closing Song God Bless You and Keep You – Jay Althouse (1951)

God bless you and keep you wherever you may go; His love be a constant companion. God lead you and guide you and be at your side. God bless you and keep you forever.

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

Our Deacon is Liz Loomis.

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.

Join us following worship for hospitality!

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.

Sunday Worship Series: Living Our Faith in Worship Feb.18 – Mar. 17, 10am Lent is a season of preparation, when we strive to strengthen our discipleship skills, grow in our spiritual lives, and renew our connection to God and one another. During these six weeks we will explore a different spiritual discipline, Worship, Study, Service, Giving and Witness and how it informs and shapes our worship. Everything we do in worship is done for a purpose, and has a deep meaning rooted in scripture and tradition. Our worship is more meaningful, and we can participate more fully when these intentions are clear.

Weekly Lenten Group Study Series, Spiritual Practices to Deepen Our Faith, Mondays, 5 - 6pm on Zoom. Meeting ID: 836 0243 2476 Passcode: 221681

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83602432476?pwd=YkorMzNPbVQ0ZzU2NVVhc25vVS9UUT09>

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Focusing on five central spiritual practices: Worship, Study, Serve, Give, and Witness. Each week we will explore a scripture passage related to the topic and highlight practical suggestions for ways to grow in these disciplines. This study draws on resources from "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton. No preparation is required, but there is an accompanying book that is available to those who are interested.

Vespers Evening Prayer Service, Wednesdays, 6:30pm Meditation, candlelight and prayer. Based upon the traditional evening liturgy of scripture, music, prayers, and silence, this thirty-minute candlelit service is open to all.

Weekly At-Home Devotional: "Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent" Available in the Narthex and in the Weekly E-News The word "Lent" comes from the old English word for "lengthen," and refers to the lengthening days of spring. Anticipating Easter, the church prepares with forty days of prayer and reflection. We are called to set time apart, to observe a sabbath each week, when we pause from the busyness of our lives and clear space to reconnect - with ourselves, with nature, with beauty, and with God. The poet Wendell Berry calls "the idea of sabbath...as rich and demanding an idea as any I know" – and over the decades, Berry has devoted many Sundays to writing "sabbath poems" that explore the depths of this rich, demanding idea. In this Lenten devotional, biblical texts walk hand-in-hand with Berry's sabbath vision of the natural world, and together they suggest simple, accessible practices you can try yourself, with your family or friends, in your workplace, or even at church.

Week by week, as the light continues to lengthen, we'll walk through the woods together toward Easter morning, keeping sabbath as we go. This devotional is produced by the SALT Project.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24th at 10am

Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 7pm

Good Friday, March 29th at Noon

Easter, March 31

Ecumenical Sunrise Service 6:26am at Singing Beach

Easter at First Parish at 10am

Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee and Conversation Every Monday 10 AM-12:00 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!

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>



Soup and Conversation: Service Sunday, March 17th, Following Worship in the Chapel Hall

Christ calls us to look beyond our church walls and consider the ways in which we can serve others. As a church we have articulated a commitment to reach out into the community and help those in need. Let's celebrate the ways in which we're doing this, and dream together about where we'd most like to make an impact, and what new opportunities we might explore. Warm your body with delicious soup. Warm your heart with a vision of service in the wider world. Want to help?

We need volunteers to bring soup and cookies, or to help with setup/clean up.

Sign up [here](#).

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.
- **The Open Door** the need is great so please donate what you can. Pantry items welcome. Coffee & tea, granola bars, oatmeal, pancake & waffle mix, maple syrup, 100% fruit juice. They are also grateful for bake mixes including muffin mixes.
- **The Grace Center** welcomes gift cards from local grocery markets to help the center provide cream, butter and other perishables.



The Seaside Parish Knitters meet 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.

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.

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/donate/?url=https://www.firstparishchurchmanchester.org)

The Stephen Ministry at First Parish is Live

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. 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.

Book Group March 25, 7 PM at Lauren Gudonis' home, 56 Masconomo St. Manchester. We will discuss "Hang the Moon" by Jeanette Walls. RSVP to Lauren at lbgudonis@gmail.com.



A riveting new novel about an indomitable young woman in Virginia during Prohibition. Most folk thought Sallie Kincaid was

a nobody who'd amount to nothing. Sallie had other plans.

Sallie Kincaid is the daughter of the biggest man in a small town, the charismatic Duke Kincaid. Born at the turn of the 20th century into a life of comfort and privilege, Sallie remembers little about her mother who died in a violent argument with the Duke. By the time she is just eight years old, the Duke has remarried and had a son, Eddie. While Sallie is her father's daughter, sharp-witted and resourceful, Eddie is his mother's son, timid and cerebral. When Sallie tries to teach young Eddie to be more like their father, her daredevil coaching leads to an accident, and Sallie is cast out. Nine years later, she returns, determined to reclaim her place in the family. That's a lot more complicated than Sallie expected, and she enters a world of conflict and lawlessness. Sallie confronts the secrets and scandals that hide in the shadows of the Big House, navigates the factions in the family and town, and finally comes into her own as a bold, sometimes reckless bootlegger. You will fall in love with Sallie Kincaid, a feisty and fearless, terrified and damaged young woman who refuses to be corralled. goodreads

April 29, 6:30 PM, we will discuss the book of Genesis at Liz Loomis' home, 34 Bennett St. Manchester. RSVP to Liz at loomisliz@hotmail.com.

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

You are invited to purchase a traditional Easter Lily, \$15, to decorate our sanctuary for the Easter morning Worship Celebration.



The Diaconate also offers the option of making a donation to *The Diaconate Fund* to assist people in our worship community who are in need.

Following the Easter service, the plant may be taken home or left to be given to our members and friends who are ill or unable to leave their home.

A complete list of donors and those remembered will be included in the Easter bulletin.

I (we) wish to donate a plant(s) *please circle one*:

In Memory of

In Celebration of

In Honor of

Name(s) of Remembered

Name(s) of Donor

Please check: I will take plant(s) home

Please give my plant(s)

A donation to the Diaconate Fund

of Lily(s) desired: _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

Please order by Friday March 22

Order online [here](#)