



**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  
Worship Celebration  
Easter Sunday  
Sunday, March 31, 2024  
10:00 am

**Prelude** The Call (from '5 Mystical Songs') – Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath:

Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love.

**\* Easter Acclamation**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Many: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

One: For we are persuaded that neither death, nor life,

Many: **Nor angels, nor principalities,**

One: Nor things present, nor things to come,

Many: **Nor powers, nor height, nor depth,**

One: Nor anything else in all creation...

Many: **Can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Savior.**

One: For on Easter, God defeated death.

Many: **Death is dead!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Many: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**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.*

\* **Opening Hymn** Christ the Lord is Risen Today NCH #233

\* **Prayer of Invocation**

**Scripture Reading Mark 16: 1 -8 Jason Smith**

<sup>1</sup> When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” <sup>4</sup> When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” <sup>8</sup> So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

\* **Passing of the Peace**

**Anthem** Magdalena – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) (sung in English)  
Early on that Easter morn, Mary Magdalena came, forlorn; what found she where our Lord was laid, but an angel bright arrayed? The angel greeted her and said: “Woman, why weepest thou? He is not dead, He is arisen from the dead, Jesus, whom thou seekest?” “Mary”, Jesus saith to her. Mary turns and called him “Master”, for then in very truth she knew Him, that He was Christ the Saviour.

**Children's Moment**

**Meditation** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name – Heinrich Fleischer (1912-2006)

Dr. Herman Weiss, organ

**Easter 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.

## **Anthem** Easter Anthem – William Billings (1746-1800)

Hallelujah! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. Hallelujah! And did He rise? Hear it, ye nations! Hear it, O ye dead! He rose, He burst the bars of death and triumphed over the grave. Then I rose, then first humanity triumphant passed the crystal ports of light, and seized Eternal Youth. Man all immortal hail. Heaven all lavish of strange gifts to man. Thine's all the glory, man's the boundless bliss.

## **Sermon “ Just the Beginning ” Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Solo** As With Rosy Steps the Morn – G. F. Handel (1685-1759), from 'Theodora'

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

As with rosy steps the morn advancing drives the shades of night, so from virtuous toils well borne raise thou our hopes of endless light! Triumphant Saviour! Lord of day! Thou art the life, the light, the way! As with rosy stes the morn advancing drives the shades of night, so from virtuous toils well borne raise thou our hopes of endless light!

### **\* 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** Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One (G. F. Handel) - #253, NCH

\* **Blessing**

**Closing Song** – Hallelujah! – G. F. Handel (from ‘The Messiah’)\*

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world

is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and of His Christ.

And He shall reign for ever and ever. King of kings (Forever and ever

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!) and Lord of lords (Forever and ever Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!) And He shall reign forever and ever. Hallelujah!

**\*The congregation is invited to join the choir in our closing song.**

**Music will be provided.**

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

**Our Deacon is Janet Groth .**

**We thank our guest musicians this morning: Kevin Tracy & Emily Dunbar, trumpet and Mark Wolinski, timpani .**

**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.

**Join us following worship for coffee and conversation and an Easter Egg Hunt .**

**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** - Thursdays, 3:30-4:45p via zoom  
We study scripture together, utilizing resources from a variety of traditions, and seeking meaning for our daily lives.

**New Members Info Session Sunday, April 7, following worship**

Want to learn more about the life of this community of faith, ask any questions you may have, and get to know other newcomers and church members? Whether you're planning to join First Parish Church as a member or not, this Info Session will help you learn more about our commitments as a faith community, the various programs and ministries we offer, and how you can get involved. Contact Pastor Katherine for more info.

**To join our mailing list** please fill out a "Welcome Card" to place in the collection plate or contact [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com), 978 -526-7661 x 1.

**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

Our FPCC **Compassion child** , Chepkirwok always needs supporters, [sign up now](#). Questions can be directed to Sue Parker, [sueparker33@aol.com](mailto:sueparker33@aol.com)

## All-Ages Family Game Night and Potluck

Saturday, April 6th, 5-8pm in the Chapel Hall

Bring your family. Bring your friends. Bring your favorite board game and a dish to share. Or just bring yourself - and get ready to have fun.



You can contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge [@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester](https://www.paypal.com/paytoemail?email=@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester)

**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, (April 4 & 18). 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.

## Book Group

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

*"The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and opens with one of the most famous first sentences of any literary work: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." It's where we find the famous stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the ark, Abraham and Isaac, and a well-dressed dreamer named Joseph."* Jeffrey Kranz

**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 508-284-0883. *"The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, The Women is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era."* goodreads

**June 24, 6:30 PM**, we will discuss "Mercury Pictures Presents" by Anthony Marra at Mary Ellen's home, 23 Harold St. Manchester. RSVP to 978-500-0018.

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



*Thank you to all who donated a Lily or to the Deacon Fund for the Easter worship service. If you donated a plant, you are invited to take it with you after this celebration.*



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

*Vincent Terrill*

Susan Martineau

*Larry L. Larsen*

Jolene and Kate Larsen

*Cheryl Jones and Dick Enberg*

Barbara Enberg and Harold Jones

*Evelyn Grant and Dorothy Kunst*

Andrea and Eric

*Joop Hoekstra*

Lee Bolten and Pam Spencer

*David Crosby*

His Family, Linda, Gretchen, and Josh

**IN CELEBRATION OF**

*Our Loved Ones*

Mary and David Lumsden

**IN HONOR OF**

*Lynda Griffiths*

Susan and Jeffrey Parker

*Reverend Katherine*

Everyone at First Parish Church