



**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 17, 2024, 10 AM**

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Jesus, I Will Ponder Now – J. G. Walther (1684-1748)

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

***Call to Worship**

One: Share the light like a city on a hill.

Many: Shine the light for the world to see.

One: You are the light and it will not be extinguished.

Many: When the opportunity comes, I will shine.

One: Let's go public. Light-bearers are we.

Many: Generosity is our standard. Love is our ethic. We'll shine the light of Christ for the world to see.

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** Just as I Am - #207, NCH

Sunday school students leave for the classrooms after the hymn.

***Prayer of Invocation**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love – Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Jesus! Name of Wondrous love! Name all other names above! Unto which most every knee bow in deep humility. Jesus! Name of wondrous love! Name all other names above! Unto which must every knee bow in deep humility. Jesus! Name decreed of old to the maiden mother told, kneeling in her lowly cell, by the angel Gabriel. Jesus! Name of priceless worth to the fallen sons of earth, for the promise that it gave, Jesus shall His people save. Jesus! Name of wondrous love! Name of love!

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 El Shaddai – Michael Card (1957), John Thompson (1950)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonia, age to age you're still the same,

by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, we will praise and lift you high, El Shaddai. Through your love and through the ram, You saved the son of Abraham; through the power of your hand, turned the sea into dry land. To the outcast on her knees, You were the God who really sees, and by your might, You set your children free. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, we will praise and lift you high, El Shaddai. Through the years you've made it clear, that the time of Christ was near, Though the people couldn't see what Messiah ought to be. Though your word contained the plan, they just could not understand Your most awesome work was done through the frailty of your Son. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, I will praise you 'till I die, El Shaddai. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, I will praise you 'till I die. El Shaddai.

Scripture Reading Marty Farmer

Jeremiah 1: 4-9

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and
the LORD said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

Matthew 5: 13-16

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Sermon “Let It Shine” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Bless the Lord, O My Soul – Mikail M. Ippolitov-Ivanov (1859-1935)

Bless the Lord, O My Soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Bless the Lord, O My Soul, and all that is within me bless His Holy name.
He is full of compassion and mercy, long suffering and great in goodness.
He will not always be chiding nor keepeth He, His wrath forever.

Bless the Lord, O My Soul, and all that is within me bless His Holy name.
O blessed art Thou, O Lord.

*** 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** This Little Light of Mine - #524, 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 Marianne Round.

Greeters are Marty Farmer & Steve Carhart.

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 Soup & Conversation



**Soup and Conversation: Service
Today, 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.

Welcome to all who are new to our Worship time.

New Members Info Session

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, 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.

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!

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. Easter egg hunt following the service!

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>

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.



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/paytogether/@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester)

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm, (Mar. 7 & 21). 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.

Local Group Seaside Parish Knitters Donates Hats and Mittens to Manchester Memorial Elementary School Students

Superintendent Pam Beaudoin and Principal John Willis would like to share that a local group, Seaside Parish Knitters, has donated hand-made hats and mittens to be used by Manchester Memorial Elementary School students.

The Seaside Parish Knitters are a group of townfolk who meet weekly at the town library to knit hats and mittens for local children and families. They donate their hand-made winter gear to groups such as Beverly Bootstraps and local elementary schools. They also create blankets, shawls, helmet liners, neck gaiters, and scarves for military troops.

MMES was able to connect with the group thanks to Nurse Joanne Seaman, who reached out to former MMES educator and member of Seaside Parish Knitters, Cindy MacDougall. Seaside Parish Knitters donated a basket full of warm, hand-made hats and mittens to students on January 8, 2024.

"I am forever grateful for this wonderful group of ladies," said Seaman.

"In light of the recent drop in temperatures and winter weather, the new winter items could not have come at a better time. Taking care of our students, whatever they may need, has been a big part of Mrs. Seaman's career at MMES. She was delighted to be able to pass the hats and mittens on to our students and was even happier to know that they were made with love by members of our own community," said Principal Willis. "It is so great to see retired staff members, such as Mrs. MacDougall, still taking care of our students and making sure they are warm."

The Seaside Parish Knitters are looking for knitting needles and yarn that residents plan to throw away. The group uses 100 percent wool and synthetic fibers for yarn, and straight and round knitting needles of all sizes. Anyone who would like to donate materials to the Seaside Parish Knitters can contact Penny Lapham at 978-526-7128 or laphenpen@live.com.

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.

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