



**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
April 14, 2024, 10:00 am

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Nightpiece – Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: Loving God, come and speak to our hearts today.

Many: May we find your words burning with hope in our lives .

One: Open our eyes, Lord.

Many: Appear before us, suddenly, unexpectedly, in all your glory .

One: So that we, too, may proclaim to a world in despair ,

Many: that we have seen the risen Lord .

One: Strengthen us and give us courage for the journey ahead.

Many: We pray in the name of the living Christ .

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** Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us - #252, NCH

Sunday school students leave for the classrooms after the hymn.

*** Prayer of Invocation**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem For the Beauty of the Earth – John Rutter (1945)

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful

hymn of praise. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and trees and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given, graces human and divine flowers of earth and buds of heav'n: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise

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 In the Mornin' – Spiritual, arr. Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

In the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin' when I rise, give me Jesus! Give me Jesus, give me Jesus; you can have all the world, but give me Jesus! 'Twixt the cradle and the grave, 'twixt the cradle and the grave, 'twixt the cradle and the grave, give me Jesus! Give me Jesus, give me Jesus; you can have all the world, but give me Jesus!

Music note: In the Mornin' is an arrangement by Charles Ives of a traditional African-American spiritual anonymously notated before 1850. Ives, with the exception of his later songs, had pretty much finished his composing career after 1919. He was inspired to make this arrangement after hearing the melody in 1929, sung unaccompanied by Mary Evelyn Stiles, an African-American woman who was a friend of his family. The work may also be known as Give Me Jesus.

Scripture Reading Luke 24: 13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you

discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon “ On the Journey ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Thou Art Worthy – Pauline M. Mills (1898-1991)
Thou art worthy, O Lord; to receive glory, glory and honor and power.
For Thou hast created, hast all things created; and for Thy pleasure
They are created, for Thou art worthy, 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.**

*** Hymn** Crown Him With Many Crowns - #199, Pilgrim Hymnal

*** Blessing**

Closing Song Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God) – Zulu
Song, arr. Doreen Rao

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

Our Deacon is Nancy Peterson.

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.

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.

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.

First Parish uses candid photos of Church activities in its publicity from time to time. Any photos of children used will not contain personally identifiable information. Members of the community not wanting their or their children’s photos depicted should inform the Church Office.



Book group is open to everyone! It is a time for church members as well as non-church friends to come together and engage with one another, build relationships, and share in a discussion of books that are of interest to people of various backgrounds. We have fun visiting, conversing about the book and sharing stories and would love to have you join us. Book Group meets on the last Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, and hosting is shared among members.

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

We are pleased to report that our inaugural group of **First Parish Stephen Ministers** was commissioned by Rev. Katherine Schofield at Sunday services on February 4. The group, shown below, completed extensive training over a period beginning last summer and stands ready to support Rev. Katherine and other care functions at First Parish by providing confidential one on one spiritual support to parishioners dealing with life challenges such as bereavement, divorce, or terminal illness. An additional part of the initiative is the development of a network of community services which can assist any in need of tangible assistance such as housing, medical care, food assistance, or similar items. The Stephen Ministry will work with all elements of the lay leadership to identify any among us who could use additional emotional and spiritual support from the Church.

The Stephen Ministry is part of a national interdenominational Christian movement. To date, it includes about 13,000 congregations and has trained 75,000 Stephen Leaders who have in turn trained 600,000 Stephen Ministers. Fuller details on the movement are here: [Stephen Ministries](#) If you are interested in participating in this program or are aware of any individual in the congregation who might benefit from our care, please feel free to contact Rev. Katherine or Stephen Leaders Linda Crosby at 978-314-1526 and Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.

Our Online Prayer Wall Give it a try! Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our [website](#). Feel more connected to the Joys and Concerns of our congregation and hear what's on each other's hearts. You will be touched to receive notifications every time someone prays for you.