



**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 21, 2024, 10:00 am

**Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles**

**Prelude** Barcarolle (from 'The Tales of Hoffmann') – Jacques Offenbach  
(1819-1880)

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

**\* Call to Worship**

**One:** In the beginning God created all things,

**Many:** **And God saw that they were good.**

**One:** At our beginning, God created us

**Many:** **Unique and irreplaceable, loved and treasured by God,**

**One:** In all our new beginnings, God creates something new

**Many:** **So we will seek God in the freshness of this morning,**

**In the laughter of friends, in the colors of creation,  
And in this beautiful place.**

**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 All Things Bright and Beautiful - #31, NCH**

*Sunday school students leave for the classrooms after the hymn.*

**\* Prayer of Invocation**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Anthem** As Torrents in Summer – Edward Elgar

As Torrents in summer, half dried in their channels, suddenly rise though the sky is still cloudless; for rain has been falling far off at their fountains. So hearts that are fainting grow full to o'erflowing; and they that behold it marvel and know not; that God at their fountains far off, has been raining!

**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** Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel? – Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Paul Knox, solo

Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel?

Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, and why not every man? He delivered Daniel from the lion's den, Jonah from the belly of the whale, and the Hebrew children from the fiery furnace, and why not every man? Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel

Deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel? Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, and why not every man? The wind blows east and the wind blows west – it blows like the judgment day, and every poor soul that never did pray will be glad to pray that day. Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel? Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, and why not every man? I set my foot on the Gospel ship, and the ship it begin to sail. It landed over me on Canaan's shore, and I'll never come back anymore. Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel? Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, and why not every man?

**Scripture Reading** Genesis 9:8-16 Paul Lengjeza

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals,

and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup> God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

## **Sermon “Created and Creating ” Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** Plenty Good Room – traditional, arr. Maags

Plenty good room in my Father’s Kingdom, so choose your seat and sit down.

I would not be a liar. I’ll tell you the reason why: ‘cause if my Lord should call me up, I wouldn’t be ready to die. No, I wouldn’t be ready to die. Oh, there’s plenty good room in my Father’s kingdom, so choose your seat and sit down. I would not be a gambler. I’ll tell you the reason why: ‘cause if my Lord should call me up, I wouldn’t be ready to die. No, I wouldn’t be ready to die. Plenty good room in my Father’s Kingdom, so choose your seat and sit down.

**\* 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 God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak - #531, NCH**

**\* 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.

**Youth Group** - Gathers monthly for service projects, arts and crafts, and social events.

### **Next Youth Gathering: Sundaes on Sunday !**

Sunday, April 28th - 5-8pm in the Chapel Hall

All teens and young adults (ages 12-24) are invited to join in for a make your own sundae bar and three games of skill. We'll also be making wildflower seed bombs to give as welcome gifts for visitors to the church.

**Weekly Lectionary Bible Study** – Will now meet on Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45p via Zoom. We study scripture together, utilizing resources from a variety of traditions, and seeking meaning for our daily lives.

**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.

**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).

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

### **Hands on Community Service**

- **The Open Door Presents: The Empty Bowl Circus Fundraiser**  
April 24th (that's Wednesday night!).  
Choose your own bowl, take home delicious soup, and enjoy circus-themed entertainment! Your support helps raise funds for summer programs of The Open Door like Summer Meals for Kids and their Mobile Market Farmers Truck. Sign up through [foodpantry.org](http://foodpantry.org). Pay-what-you-can donations encouraged with each ticket purchase!
- **MBTS 21st Annual Community Cleanup**  
Saturday May 4th, 9:00am to 12:00.  
Bring your community spirit and join TEAM FIRST PARISH CHURCH to help beautify our town! Even if you can only spare an hour we can use your help. Gloves, bags, water, and snacks provided, plus lunch for anyone who participates. Let's have a great turnout and live our faith outside the church walls!
- **Operation Troop Support** Socks, any size any color. Small board and card games, items can be dropped at the Chapel or Church ☩
- **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. can be dropped at the Chapel or Church
- **The Grace Center** welcomes gift cards from local grocery markets to help the center provide cream, butter, and other perishables can be dropped at the Chapel or Church

**The Seaside Parish Knitters** meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm, (May 2 & 16). 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 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](mailto:loomisliz@hotmail.com).

**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.

**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](#).

**Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee** and Conversation Every Monday 10 AM-12:00 PM (except holidays) at the First Parish Community Hall. Hospitality provided by The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging. Come sit down and talk!