



**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 7 , 2024, 10:00 am

**Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles**

**Prelude Adoration – Florence Price (1887-1953)**

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

**\* Call to Worship**

One: This is a new day.

**Many: The day of the risen Christ !**

One: Christ lives in our hearts and in our world.

**Many: Christ lives. Let us love our neighbors !**

One: Christ lives. Let us rejoice!

**Many: Christ lives. Let us worship God !**

**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.*

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**Madeline Florence Doucette**

Child of Christina DiGiovanni and William Doucette

Godchild of Maggie Clark and Peter Morrissey

**BLESSING OF THE WATER**

**THE LITANY OF BAPTISM**

One: We are gathered to present Madeline Florence Doucette to the Church and to dedicate her to God. What can we affirm about her?

**Many: She is a child of God, made in God's image.**

One: As Madeline grows and matures, how will she know she is a child of God and how will she learn of the Christian story?

**Many: We will tell her about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.**

One: In turn, what will we expect of Madeline?

**Many: We look forward to sitting with her at the Lord's Table, sharing with her the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with her in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.**

One: Do you, Christina and Will, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Madeline in the Christian faith, helping her to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering her the nurture and support of the Christian church? And do you, Maggie and Pete, godparents, agree to guide Madeline into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching her about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?

*Parents and Godparents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.*

One: And First Parish Church, do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Madeline?

**Many: We do, for she belongs to us as well.**

One: Then, may God be with us.

**Many: God help us. Amen.**

## BAPTISM

### CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME (Unison)

**We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain - #230, NCH

*Sunday school students stay in worship today.*

## **\*Words of Assurance**

### **Passing of the Peace**

**Anthem** With a Voice of Singing – Martin Shaw (1875 – 1958)

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honour of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Alleluia.

Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

### **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** Nocturne in B, op. 32 #1 – Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

### **Scripture Reading John 20:19-31 Sue Parker**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said

this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## **Sermon “ Brave Thomas ” Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

#### **Offertory Anthem Easter Song – Alan Pote (1945), Luke 24:10**

The angel rolled the stone away. 'Twas on a bright and shiny morn when the trumpet began to sound, the angel rolled the stone away. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Alleluia, Christ is risen! Go tell Mary and Martha; go tell Peter and John. Go tell all the disciples, that Christ is risen! Jesus, He was killed on a Friday; Jesus, He lay buried and dead; Jesus, He arose on the third day. He rose upon into heaven, just like He said. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Brother , won't you ever believe me, sister, do you think it's a lie, listen while I tell you a story – if you believe in Jesus, then you'll never die. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**\* 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.**

**The Sacrament of Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**One: The Lord be with you.**

**All: And also with you.**

**One: Lift up your hearts!**

**All: We lift them up to God!**

**One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**The Breaking, Pouring, and Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)**

**Thank you for this meal shared in the company of friends.  
Having rested and been fed, may we go from this place  
committed to feeding any person who hungers for love,  
offering the same blessings we have received. Amen.**

**\* Hymn The Day of Resurrection - #245, 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 Sue Parker .**

**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.

**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 today 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).

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, 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.

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!

Book Group 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).

*"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.  
<https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>

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.

