



**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
Summer Worship July 21, 2024, 9:00 am

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Prelude – Air (from ‘Suite in D’) – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: We gather together to worship God ,
The Shepherd of our lives.

Many: The one who created us ,

One: Who loves us and cares for us,

Many: Who walks beside us in good times and bad ,
and who calls us to follow .

One: This is our God!

Many: Let's worship the Good Shepherd together !

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** Take My Life, God, Let It Be - #448, NCH

Prayer of Invocation

Passing of the Peace

Solo What a Wonderful World – George David Weiss (1921-2010)/Bob Thiele (1922-1996); arr. Eva Cassidy
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I see trees that are green, red roses too, I'll watch them bloom for me and you and I think to myself - what a wonderful world. I hear babies cry, I watch them grow, and they'll learn much more than I'll ever know, and I say to myself – oh what a wonderful world. The colours of the rainbow so pretty in the sky are also on the faces of the people passing by. I see friends shaking hands saying, “How do you do?” but they're really saying, “I love you”. I see trees that are green, and red roses too, I'll watch them bloom for me and you, and I think to myself – oh what a wonderful world. I think to myself – ooh what a wonderful world.

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 La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin – Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Reading Psalm 23 Adrian Argento

¹ The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Sermon “ Shepherding Go d” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Solo Old Time Religion – Anonymous, arr. Luigi Zaninelli (1932)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Gimme that old time religion, gimme that old time religion, gimme that old time religion, it's good enough for me. It was good for our mothers, it was good for our mothers, it was good for our mothers, it's good enough for me. Makes me love ev'rybody, makes me love ev'rybody, makes me love ev'rybody, it's good enough for me. It will do when I'm dying, it will do when I'm dying, it will do when I'm dyin', it's good enough for me. It will take us all to heaven, It will take us all to heaven, It will take us all to heaven, it's good enough for me. Gimme that old time religion, gimme that old time religion, gimme that old time religion, it's good enough for me. It's good enough for me.

*** 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 O Love That Will Not Let Me Go - #485, NCH**

*** Blessing**

Closing Song Grace – Clifford Shaw (1911-1976), text Nora D. McGee
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

For the blanket of the night o'er a starlit sky;
For the hush of the dawn when morning is nigh;
For tender spring, for music, for joy the day may bring,
We thank Thee dear God. May all our lives sing. Amen

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

Our Deacon is Barbara Smith .

Welcome to all who are new to our Worship time. 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 x 1.

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.

Readers and Greeters are always needed. To volunteer speak to the Deacons, or you can also sign up [online](#).

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm, we begin meeting again in September.

Altar Flowers

With gardens and yards now in bloom, please consider creating an arrangement for the FPCC altar.....it does not need to be large or tall.....and can be as simple as you wish.....just from your yard would be a beautiful gift to share.

Call Penny Lapham 978-526-7128.

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 and Youth Group begin again in the fall.

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study – Meets on Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45p via Zoom. We will continue to meet during the summer months, except July 2nd. We study scripture together, utilizing resources from a variety of traditions, and seeking meaning for our daily lives.

The First Parish Office will be closed on Fridays through Labor Day.

Contribute to the work of First Parish Church
@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester

First Parish Stephen Ministers are highly trained lay volunteers who stand ready to provide confidential, one on one presence and counsel for anyone facing a life challenge such as divorce, job loss, major illness, or bereavement, under the direction of our Minister. This service also provides referrals to local agencies which can provide tangible assistance for needs such as housing, energy, or medical care. This program is part of the national interdenominational Christian movement described here: stephenministries.org. If you or anyone you know might benefit from this service, please contact Rev. Katherine or Stephen Leaders Linda Crosby (978-314-1526) and Steve Carhart (978-407-8454).

Book Group News – July is a free month. Have fun reading whatever you like. August 26, 6:30 PM, We will discuss “A True Account” by Katherine Howe at Mary Ellen's home, 23 Harold St. Manchester. RSVP to Mary Ellen at cook.maryellen7@gmail.com.

Fair by the Sea, the final date for dropping off yard sale donations will be July 28th! Items accepted today July 21st and July 28th 10–noon & Weds July 24th, 11-1.

If you have items for a Silent Auction Basket, please drop them to the Chapel or let us know if you would like us to pick up.

Volunteers can sign up to help on the Sign-Up Genius [here](#)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-50306652-fair/31177939#/>



ART SHOW SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

The Faith Formation Ministry of First Parish Church is seeking art submissions for a judged Art Exhibit themed "BRIGHT and BEAUTIFUL!"

Art will be displayed to view from August 21-August 28, 3-7 PM

Art will be judged, and winners will be announced August 26.

Winners will be awarded prizes in First and Second place in the following age range categories:

The Matisse Group: Ages 3-6 years

The Van Gogh Group: Ages 7-10 years

The Picasso Group: Ages 11-14 years

The Renoir Group: Ages 15- 18 years

The DaVinci Group: Ages 19- and over

Painting, drawing, mixed media, collage, sculpture, and nature items art are sought.

Submissions will be accepted daily outside at 1 Chapel Ln. MBTS beginning August 5 and closing August 15. Look for specially marked drop bins.

For questions or more information, contact Jeanne Westcott
jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com