

**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
Worship with Communion
July 7, 2024, 9:00 am

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Consolation – Felix Mendelssohn (1809 -1847)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: Come, Holy Spirit of God! Bring your mighty power into our lives.

Many: Rush through us, inspiring us to witness to God's great love.

One: Burn bright in our hearts.

Many: Embolden us with the confident spirit of faith that our lives might show your love. Amen.

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**

Passing of the Peace

**Solo – Our Great God – Fernando Ortega (1957) and Mac Powell (1972)
Jim Brennan, solo**

Eternal God – unchanging, mysterious and unknown: Your boundless love – un failing in grace and mercy shown bright seraphim in endless flight around your gracious throne - (they) raise their voices day and night in praise to You alone. Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God! Lord, we are weak and frail; helpless in the storm. Surround us with your angels, hold us in Your arms. Our cold and ruthless enemy – his pleasure is our harm.

Rise up, o Lord and he will flee before our Sov'reign God. Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God! Let ev'ry creature in the sea and ev'ry flying bird; let ev'ry mountain, ev'ry field and valley of the earth; let all the moons and all the stars in the universe sing praises to the living God, who rules them by His word. Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

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 Sarabande – G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Reading Exodus 3: 1-12

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And

now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

Sermon “ Just As I Am ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Duet - Holy Ground - Geron Davis (1960), arr Lloyd Larson

Rev. Katherine Schofield and Simone Argento, soloists

In His presence there is joy beyond measure, and at His feet peace of mind can still be found; and if you have a need I know He has the answer. Reach out and claim it, you are standing on holy ground. We are standing on holy ground and I know that there are angels all around. Let us praise Jesus now. We are standing in His presence on holy ground; and I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now. We are standing in His presence on holy ground. We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around. Let us praise Jesus now. We are standing in His presence on holy ground. As I walked through the door, I sensed His presence, and I knew this was the place where love abounds; for this is the temple, Jehovah God abides here, and we are standing in His presence on holy ground. We are standing on holy ground and I know that there are angels all around. Let us praise Jesus now. We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

*** 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)

Thanks be to God whose name is Love.

Thanks be to God who hungers
to know us and be known by us.

As we leave this table,
may we carry with us a taste
of the inherent worth and dignity of every person,
offering the same to all we meet. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn Here I Am, Lord (view insert)

* Blessing

Closing Song God Be with You – Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)
God be with you ‘till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you ‘till we meet again.

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

Our Deacon is Barbara Smit h.

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.

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.

Contribute to the work of First Parish Church

@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester

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, meeting again in September.

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.

HERE I AM, LORD

(Organ: p. 458 // Guitar: p. 304)

Dan Schutte

VERSES: *Majestically*



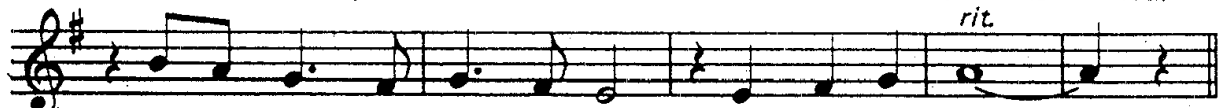
1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



1. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who
2. I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
3. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin-est



1. make the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
2. break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
3. bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

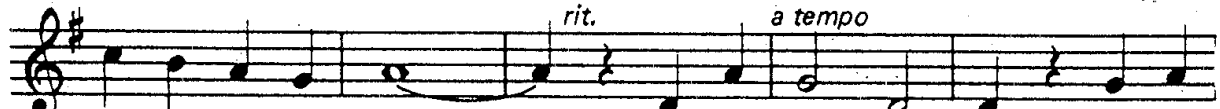


1. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? _____
2. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? _____
3. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? _____

REFRAIN: *a tempo*



Here I am, Lord. _____ Is it I, Lord? _____ I have heard you



call-ing in the night. _____ I will go, Lord, _____ if you



lead me. _____ I will hold your peo - ple in my heart. _____

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