



**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 October 13 , 2024
10:00 am**

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude March, from 'The Throne Room' – John Williams (1932)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: We are here to worship a remarkable God.

Many: The love of God welcomes us.

The grace of Christ awaits us.

The joy of the Spirit enfolds us.

One: Come as the joyful, come as the eager, come as the thankful,
come as the recipients of amazing grace.

Many: The love of God emboldens us.

The grace of Christ redeems us.

The joy of the Spirit uplifts us.

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** O God of Love, O God of Peace - #571, NCH

*** Prayer of Invocation**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem Steal Away – spiritual, arr. Nicholas White

Chorus: Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus, Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

Verse: My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the thunder; the trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

Chorus:

Verse: Green trees are bendin', poor sinners stand a-tremblin'; the trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

Chorus:

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 My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord – spiritual, arr. Florence Price

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

In de Lord, in de Lord, my soul's been anchored in de Lord. Befo' I'd stay in hell one day, my soul's been anchored in de Lord; I'd sing an' pray myself away, my soul's been anchored in de Lord; O Lord, my soul's been anchored in de Lord. I'm goin' to pray an' never stop, my soul's been anchored in de Lord; until I've reached the mountain top, my soul's been anchored in de Lord; O Lord, my soul's been anchored in de Lord. In de Lord, in de Lord, my soul's been anchored in de Lord; God knows my soul's been anchored in de Lord.

Scripture Reading Genesis 16: 1-16 Eleanor Harris.

¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave whose name was Hagar, ² and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the LORD has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave, and gave her to her

husband Abram as a wife. ⁴ He went in to Hagar, and she conceived, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!” ⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, “Your slave is in your power; do to her as you please.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

⁷ The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, “Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am running away from my mistress Sarai.” ⁹ The angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her.” ¹⁰ The angel of the LORD also said to her, “I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude.” ¹¹ And the angel of the LORD said to her, “Now you have conceived and shall bear a son;

 you shall call him Ishmael,
 for the LORD has given heed to your affliction.

¹² He shall be a wild ass of a man,
with his hand against everyone,
 and everyone’s hand against him,
and he shall live at odds with all his kin.”

¹³ So she named the LORD who spoke to her, “You are El-roi,” for she said, “Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?” ¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Sermon “ Sarai and Hagar ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem How Firm a Foundation – Mack Wilberg (1955)

How Firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, who unto the Savior for refuge have fled? In ev’ry condition, in sickness, in health, in

poverty's vale or abounding in wealth, at home or abroad, on the land or the sea as thy days may demand, so shall thy succor be. Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed, I am thy God and will still give thee aid. I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand. Thy soul that on Jesus hath leaned, for repose I will not, I cannot, desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never forsake! Amen!

*** 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 What a Covenant - 471, NCH**

*** 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 Deacons are Sue Parker and Jason Smith .

The Greeters are Jan Marshall and Eleanor Harris.

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.

The office will be closed on Monday, Oct. 14 due to the holiday.

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, October 3 and 17. 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.

Church Directory, Fall available at the Church and in the Church Office.

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 has begun.

Weekly Bible Study – Meets 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.

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).



Hands on Opportunities at First Parish
First Parish has continuing collections for –

- **The Open Door** Most needed items – canned chicken & tuna, peanut butter, healthy snacks, 100% juice boxes, cereal, hearty soups, canned fruits & veggies.
- **Operation Troop Support** Socks, and small board and card games.
- **The Grace Center** Gift Cards from local grocery markets for perishables like cream, butter, milk.

Drop items at the Chapel (inside and outside bins) and at the Church

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.

October 28, 6:30 PM ¶The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store¶ by James McBride at Joan Wogan's home 5 Ledgewood Rd. Manchester.
RSVP to Joan at joanwogan@gmail.com.