



**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
Communion Sunday Worship , October 6, 2024
10:00 am

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Waltz in A Flat, op. 39, #15 – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

*** Call to Worship**

One: Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine.

Many: We gather with them in heart and mind .

One: Around the world the broken body is made whole.

Many: As part of that body we join in its unity .

One: Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared for the table.

Many: We, who share in the banquet, come eager to be fed .

One: Let us share God's bounty!

Many: Let us worship 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 I Woke Up This Morning - 85, NCH**

***Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Many: God, You heap your love upon us

as a loving parent provides for a child's needs.

Forgive us when we treat Your generosity as our right,

or hug it possessively to ourselves.

Give us enough trust to live secure in Your love

and to share it freely with others

in open-handed confidence

that Your grace will never run out. Amen.

* Words of Assurance

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Anthem Blessed Is the Man – Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in the law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree that is planted by the rivers of waters, that bringeth forth his fruit in due season. His leaf shall not wither, and what he doeth shall prosper, shall prosper. And what he doeth shall prosper.

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 Closer to Fine – Indigo Girls

Simone Argentio, Paul Knox and Rev. Katherine Schofield, vocals and guitars

I'm tryin' to tell you somethin' 'bout my life, maybe give me insight between black and white; and the best thing you've ever done for me us to help me take my life less seriously. It's only life after all, yeah.

Well, darkness has a hunger that's insatiable and lightness has a call that's hard to hear. I wrap my fear around me like a blanket. I sailed my ship of safety 'til I sank it. I'm crawling on your shores.

(Chorus) And I went to the doctor, I went to the mountains. I looked to the children, I drank from the fountains. There's more than one answer to these questions; pointing me in a crooked line. And the less I seek my source for some definitive. The closer I am to fine. And I went to see the doctor of philosophy with a poster of Rasputin and a beard down to his knee. He never did marry or see a B-Grade movie. He graded my performance, he

said he could see through me. I spent four years prostrate to the higher mind - got my paper and I was free.

(Chorus)

I stopped by the bar at three A.M. to seek solace in a bottle, or possibly a friend, and I woke up with a headache like my head against a board, twice as cloudy as I'd been the night before and I went in seeking clarity.

I went to the doctor, I went to the mountains. I looked to the children, I drank from the fountains. We go to the doctor, we go to the mountains, we look to the children, yeah, we go to the Bible, we go through the work out; we read up on revival, we stand up for the lookout. There's more than one answer to these questions, pointing me in a crooked line; and the less I seek my source for some definitive, the closer I am to fine.

Scripture Reading Dave Lumsden

Genesis 18: 1-8

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

John 6:1 -13

¹ After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these

people to eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

Sermon "The World Banquet" Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem Thou Art Worthy – Pauline M. Mills (1898-1991)

Thou art worthy, O Lord; to receive glory, glory and honor and power.
For Thou hast created, hast all things created; and for Thy pleasure
They are created, for Thou art worthy, O Lord.

*** 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: Welcome to Christ's table.

All: We are glad to be here!

One: Lift up your hunger.

All: We do not hide our needs before God.

One: Prepare yourself to be hosted and fed.
All: The Bread of Life is our joy and satisfaction.

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)
Holy Provider, Grace made tangible, Love in motion,
We have received your gifts with thanks in our hearts.
Well-fed and grateful, send us into the world
that waits in aching hope for bread and justice multiplied,
ready to serve, and forever praising your name.

* Hymn Bring Many Names - 11, 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 .
Our Greeters are Mary and Dave Lumsden .

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](#).

Soup and Conversation: Faith Formation Today, Sunday, October 6th, Following Worship in Chapel Hall.

In seeking to live a life of faith, we are called to grow our hearts and minds - no matter our age. While Christian education (or Sunday School) is a critical part of faith formation, the term “faith formation” goes beyond the classroom, incorporating service, leadership, and spiritual development, all in an intergenerational context. What does this mean? And where do you fit in? Join us for delicious soup and some thought-provoking conversation.

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.