



**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 September 1 , 2024
9:00 am

Ring of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Prelude in E Flat Minor (from 'WTC', book 1) – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: Worker God,

Many: Whose hands built the earth, And sowed the stars across the sky,

One: We gather in your presence this morning

Many: With praise and thanksgiving for your mighty deeds.

One: Meet us here, Worker God;

Many: Strengthen our hearts and our hands to work with you in the building of a world filled with justice and peace.

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** God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak (from R. Schumann), #531,
NCH

*** Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Many: Dear God, we ask your blessing on all those who labor, who work to provide for themselves

and bring us the comforts we have come to expect.

Bring humility to us when we build towers that touch the sky,

and are impressed by our own feats.

Bring compassion to us when we forget those who work under unjust conditions.

Bring grace to us when we are most in need of your healing touch.

*** Words of Assurance**

Passing of the Peace

Solo - A Simple Song (from 'Mass') - Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and Leonard Bernstein

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Sing God a simple song: Lauda, Laude. Make it up as you go along Lauda, Laude. Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things, for God is the simplest of all. I will sing the Lord a new song to praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord. I will sing His praises while I live all of my days. Blessed is the one who loves the Lord, blessed is the one who praises Him. Lauda, Lauda, Laude... And walks in His ways. I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help. I will lift up my voice to the Lord, singing Lauda, Laude; for the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand, and the sun shall not smite me by day, nor the moon by night. Blessed is the one who loves the Lord, Lauda, Lauda, Lauden and walks in His ways. Lauda, Lauda, Laude, Lauda, Lauda di da di day... All of my days.

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 Soiree dans Grenade (from 'Estampes') – Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Reading Matthew 12:1 -13 Heather Reid

¹² At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. ² When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." ³ He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ How he entered the house of God, and they ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests? ⁵ Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and yet are guiltless? ⁶ I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. ⁷ But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸ For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

⁹ He left that place and entered their synagogue; ¹⁰ a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, "Is it lawful to cure on the Sabbath?" so that they might accuse him. ¹¹ He said to them, "Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? ¹² How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." ¹³ Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other.

Sermon "To Rest is to Pray" Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory My Tribute – Andrae Crouch (1942-2015)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

How can I give thanks for the things You have done for me? Things so undeserved, yet You give to prove Your love for me. The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude; all that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee. To God be the glory; to God be the glory, to God be the Glory for the things He has done. With His blood He has saved me, with his pow'r He has raised me, to God be the glory for the things He has done. Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing Lord to Thee; and should I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary. With His blood He has saved me, with

His pow'r He has raised me. To God be the glory for the things He has done..

*** 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)

Holy Provider, Grace made tangible, Love in motion,
We have received your gifts with thanks in our hearts.

Grateful for the labor that produced them,

Send us into the world

that waits in aching hope for bread and justice multiplied,
ready to serve, and forever praising your name.

*** Hymn Come, Labor On - #532, 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 Liz Loomis .

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Muriel Parker by her adoring family .

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, September 5 and 19. 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.

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 begins in September .

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.

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 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.

Sunday, Sept. 8 Rally Sunday , kick off the school year, during the 10 AM Worship and **Thank you Gathering** , later in the day come to a gathering to thank you for supporting our Church in 2024, on the lawn, at Tuck’s Point, 5 - 7 PM. Pizza & First Parish Fizzes.

Sunday, Sept. 22 Youth Fellowship begins!

Sunday, Sept. 29 Jazz Sunday during the 10 AM Worship

**HANDS ON MISSION
OPPORTUNITIES
@ FIRST PARISH CHURCH
COME JOIN IN!**



Faith Formation will be collecting school supplies, to benefit the Beeman School of Gloucester, the sales are currently on, if you are out and about, please pick up some of the following items – spiral bound notebooks (not college ruled), pencils, pens, washable markers in thin and thin variety,

composition notebooks, crayons in 24 pack size, small staplers and staples, paper clips, dry erase markers, sharpies (for teachers), construction paper, sketch pads, index cards, pink pearl erasers. Any assorted art supplies: like paint brushes, washable paint, craft foam sheets, stickers, glitter glue. Let's support our educators and students by limiting their needs and preparing them for success!

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