



**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 28, 2024, 9:00 am**

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Prelude in C (book 1, WTC)– J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Dr. Bonnie Anderson, piano

Ave Maria – J.S. Bach/Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Erin Merceruio Nelson, solo

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

*** Call to Worship** Psalm 30

One: Sing Praises to God, all you faithful ones

Many: God hears us in our fear and our sorrow

One: Where there was no way

Many: God leads us in a new way

One: Where there was no mercy

Many: God surprises us with fresh mercy

One: Where there was weeping

Many: God invites us to step into a new dance.

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** Precious Lord, Take My Hand - #472, NCH

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Connor William Blodgett
Child of Jonathan and Amanda Blodgett
Godchild of Jack Mentuck -Culliton and Joyce Daly

BLESSING OF THE WATER

THE LITANY OF BAPTISM

One: We are gathered to present Connor Blodgett to the Church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?

Many: He is a child of God, made in God's image.

One: As Connor grows and matures, how will he know he is a child of God and how will he learn of the Christian story?

Many: We will tell him about Abraham and Sarah, the parents of our faith; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about the Savior, Jesus.

One: In turn, what will we expect of Connor?

Many: We look forward to sitting with him at the Lord's Table, sharing with him the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with him in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

One: Do you, Jonathan and Amanda, parents, assume your primary responsibility for fulfilling these expectations by growing with Connor in the Christian faith, helping him to become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, and by offering him the nurture and support of the Christian church? And do you, Jack and Joyce, godparents, agree to guide Connor into becoming an engaged and complete human being, teaching him about personal sacrifice for a greater good, about grace and reconciliation at times of human weakness, and the power of unconditional love for all people?

Parents and Godparents: We happily and genuinely accept this serious duty.

One: And First Parish Church, do you pledge to maintain a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for Connor?

Many: We do, for he belongs to us as well.

One: Then, may God be with us.

Many: God help us. Amen.

BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME (Unison)

We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, newly baptized, into the circle of love in Christ's church. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

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 Syrinx – Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Dr. Bonnie Anderson, flute

Scripture Reading 1 Kings 19: 1 -16 Jason Smith

¹ Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." ⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

⁷ The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” ⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁰ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

¹¹ The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁴ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

¹⁵ The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.

Sermon “ Help Us, O God ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Solo The Holy City – Stephen Adams (1841-1913)

Erin Merceruio Nelson, solo

Last night I lay asleeping There came a dream so fair.

I stood in old Jerusalem, Beside the temple there;

I heard the children singing, and ever as they sang;

methought the voice of Angels, from Heaven in answer rang:
"Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Lift up your gates and sing,
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna to your King!"
And then methought my dream was changed -
the streets no longer rang. Hushed were the glad Hosannas
the little children sang. The sun grew dark with mystery,
the morn was cold and chill as the shadow of a cross arose
upon a lonely hill. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Hark! How the Angels sing,
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your King!"

*** 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 God, Our Help in Ages Past - #25, NCH**

*** Blessing**

Closing Song God Be in My Head - H. W. Davies (1869-1941)

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and after my departing.

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

Our Deacon is Barbara Smith .

We welcome , Bonnie Anderson our guest musician, this morning.
Bonnie Anderson has a varied career as chamber pianist, orchestral pianist, soloist, and teacher of students ages 12 -88. She enjoys collaborating with musicians from the Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic,

and San Francisco Symphony. Highlights of her collaborations include performing Hindemith's Trio for Saxophone, Viola and Piano with Branford Marsalis and Christof Huebner on the Nantucket Island Musical Arts Society Series, recital with Joseph Foley on the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra "Unleashed Series" in Houston, and concerts with her Piano Duo partner Stella Owen around New England.

As orchestral pianist, Bonnie is a member of Orchestra of Indian Hill and performs as guest pianist with Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Concord Orchestra, and Portland Symphony. An enthusiastic educator, Bonnie teaches at Phillips Andover Academy and was previously on the faculty at UMass Lowell. This year's projects include outdoor concerts on two keyboards with her Piano Duo, solo recitals of her solo arrangements of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, and concerts with her new Piano Trio. Bonnie's recordings include a solo piano disc featuring French composers and a collaborative disc (Nightsongs) with trumpeter Joseph Foley. Bonnie attended the Juilliard School, Michigan State University, French Piano Institute in Paris and received her DMA from Boston University. She lives in Manchester with her family and two golden retrievers.

We also welcome our guest soloist Erin Merceruio Nelson . Hailed as "secure and sonorous" with a "bright, flexible voice" (Boston Musical Intelligencer), soprano Erin Merceruio Nelson is quickly becoming known for her signature blend of impeccable musicianship and strong dramatic instincts across a broad range of challenging repertoire. An avid performer of new and contemporary music, Erin's 2023 -2024 season performances include the role of Ruth in the East Coast premier of Awakenings by Tobias Picker with Odyssey Opera as well as multiple roles in a set of new chamber operas with White Snake Projects. Erin also premiered a new work for orchestra and soloists titled "In Her Element" by Francine Trester with the Kendall Square Orchestra. In past seasons, Erin created the role of The Nymph in the world premiere of NIGHTTOWN by Benjamin P. Wenzelberg with Lowell House Opera at Harvard University, premiered the chamber work Tide Flowers by composer Geoffrey Gibbs at the University of Rhode Island as the soprano soloist, and appeared as Bea in Jake Heggie's Three Decembers with TBD Opera Project under the direction of Sharon Daniels. Erin's 2023-2024 season also includes the role of First Lady in Mozart's The Magic Flute with MassOpera. Other

recent performances include Lady Clarence in Odyssey Opera's concert production of Saint-Saëns' Henry VIII, and Frasquita in Bizet's Carmen with Opera Breve in NY. www.erinmercercuionelson.com

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.



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



FAIR BY THE SEA

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 10-2
DURING FESTIVAL BY THE SEA
AT 1 CHAPEL LANE
(BEHIND SANTANDER BANK)**

COMMUNITY YARD SALE & MORE

Yard Sale with
Handbags Art Accessories
Home décor, including holiday
Housewares Bric-a-brac Linens

**OUR FAMOUS JEWELRY TABLE
SILENT AUCTION & BASKETS
ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
FOOD**

Including baked and Home Grown Goodies

WWW.FIRSTPARISHCHURCH.ORG