



**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 August 11, 2024
9:00 am

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Be Thou My Vision (ancient Irish melody)– arr. Linda Hartman

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

*** Call to Worship**

ONE: Come out, church!

MANY: let us break forth among God's brightly shining lights.

ONE: Climb to the belfry tops, members!

MANY: let us join the stars with our message of hope and peace.

ONE: Enter here, you seekers,

MANY: and open up the pomegranate of God's Word.

ONE: Rejoice, all of you!

MANY: rejoice in the likeness of Christ to our deepest wishes.

ALL: here pray, sing now, rejoice and again we say, rejoice!

Welcome Bethany Woods

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** Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer #18 NCH

Prayer of Invocation

Passing of the Peace

Duet Hungarian Dance #4 in F minor – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Bonnie Anderson and Herman Weiss, duo-pianists

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 Recit. and Aria: Lord God of Abraham (from 'Elijah') –
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Paul Knox, solo

Draw near, all ye people, come to me. Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, this day let it be known that Thou art God; and that I am Thy servant! Lord God of Abraham! Oh shew to all this people that I have done these things according to Thy word. Oh hear me, Lord, and answer me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, oh hear me and answer me, and shew this people that Thou art Lord God. And let their hearts again be turned!

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 2:6 -11 X2 [The Revised English Bible, 1989] Bethany Woods

Among the mature, I do speak words of wisdom, though not a wisdom belonging to this present age or to its governing powers, already in decline. I speak God's hidden wisdom, his secret purpose framed from the very beginning to bring us to our destined glory. None of the powers that rule the world has known that wisdom. If they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Scripture speaks of "things beyond our seeing, things beyond our hearing, things beyond our imagining, all prepared by God for those that love him." And these are what God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit explores everything, even the depths of God's own nature. Who knows what a human being is but the human spirit within him? In the same way, only the Spirit of God knows what God is.

Sermon " Go Public " Rev. Rick Chrisman

Invitation to the Offering

Duet Hungarian Dance #5 in F sharp minor – Johannes Brahms
Bonnie Anderson and Herman Weiss, duo-pianists

* 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 If You But Trust in God to Guide You #410 NCH

* Blessing

Postlude High on the Mountain Top – Ebenezer Beesley (1840-1906)

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

Our Deacon is Barbara Smith .

Notes about the music: Linda Hartman is a retired high school choir director from Fontana, CA. Her many arrangements of hymn tunes have provided rich materials for our keyboard service pieces.

Felix Mendelssohn's Oratorio 'Elijah' was given its American premiere in Boston in 1848 by the Handel and Haydn Society, a year after his death. It begins with a proclamation by Elijah, followed by an Overture – a very unusual configuration. The rest of the oratorio is, however, modeled on Baroque prototypes - particularly Bach and Handel. It is a story of faith and perseverance.

Johannes Brahms conceived his 21 Hungarian Dances as an expression of the great variety which exists in the realm of Hungarian gypsy music. Originally composed for piano 4 hands, numbers 4 and 5 were published in the first volume in 1869. They are adaptations of well known melodies. Most of those melodies have a folk origin, with one exception being #5

(composed by Bela Keler). Most of the dances were subsequently orchestrated by various composers.

This morning, we welcome Rev. Rick Chrisman. Rick has had a dual career in campus and urban parish ministry. He served chaplaincies at Princeton, Tufts, and Skidmore. Also he ministered at Old South Church Boston, Central UCC in Jamaica Plain, and Eliot UCC in Newton. He always asks, what might the arts contribute to ministry? He lives with his wife Cindy in Brighton.

We also welcome Bonnie Anderson our guest musician this morning. Bonnie Anderson has a varied career as chamber pianist, orchestral pianist, and piano soloist. Bonnie enjoys collaborating with musicians from the Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. 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 at the River Oaks Chamber Unleashed Series in Houston, Texas, guest pianist with Music on the Hill Chamber Music Festival in Rhode Island, and concerts with her piano duo partner Stella Owen. Current projects include performances of her solo arrangements of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, recitals with her new piano trio (Stone Arch Trio), videotaping music by female and living composers (Freya Project), and concerts with mezzo-soprano Lisa van der Ploeg and Katherine Growdon. As orchestral pianist, Bonnie is principal pianist of the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra and Vista Chamber Players in Groton, Massachusetts. She also performs as guest pianist with Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Lexington Symphony Orchestra, and Carlisle Chamber Orchestra. Bonnie most recently performed Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Copland's Appalachian Spring for the tuning concerts in the new concert halls at Groton Hill Music Center. Bonnie's recordings include a solo CD featuring music by Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Debussy, Ravel and Ned Rorem, as well as a collaborative recording (Nightsongs) with trumpeter Joseph Foley. Bonnie attended the Juilliard School, Michigan State University, French Piano Institute in Paris, and received her Doctor of Musical Arts from Boston University. Bonnie is an Adjunct Instructor of piano at Phillips Academy in Andover and has

enjoyed teaching chamber music at Point CounterPoint Camp. An accomplished flutist, she is traveling to Switzerland with the Metropolitan Flute Festival Orchestra in July. Bonnie is an avid indo-rower and certified yoga instructor. (bonnieandersonpiano.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.

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 –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.



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