



**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 September 15, 2024
10:00 am**

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Jesus, I Will Ponder Now – J. G. Walther (1684-1748)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: We are met in the presence of God

Many: **And we do not meet alone.**

One: With Abraham and Sarah

Many: **We gather to worship the Lord.**

One: We embark on our own journey of faith

Many: **God's Holy name be praised.**

One: We journey in the presence of God.

Many: **And we do not journey alone.**

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** Now Is the Time Approaching - #609, NCH

*** Invocation**

Installation of New Deacons

Jeff Bodmer -Turner

Jason Smith

One: You have been entrusted with a sacred task. Do you now accept the joyful duty of caring for God's people in this community of believers? Do you promise to give your best efforts to fulfill your role as Deacons?

Deacons: We do.

One: Do you covenant to pray for the members of this congregation regularly and to follow the Holy Spirit as you help cultivate a challenging, comforting and spiritually -rich worship life for this community?

Deacons: We will pray and we will follow the Spirit's lead, that we all may grow in faith.

One: And to the congregation, in placing this mantle of responsibility and trust upon these new Deacons, do you commit to pray for them and support them in their ministry.

Many: We do.

One: Recognizing that we are one body in Christ and having promised mutual support before our God, let us serve one another in faith, hope, and love.

Many: Let us grow in grace and knowledge as we glorify our Lord.

Passing of the Peace

Anthem We Walk by Faith – Kenneth T. Kosche (1947)

We walk by faith and not by sight; No gracious words we hear from Christ, who spoke as none ever spoke; but we believe Him near. We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where he trod; but in His promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!" Help then, O Lord, our faith abound to call on You where You are found: that when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light we may behold You with full and endless sight.

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 Come Sunday – Duke Ellington (1899-1974)

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Come Sunday, oh come Sunday, that's the day.

Lord, dear Lord above: God Almighty; God of love,

Please look down and see my people through.

I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky.

I don't mind the gray skies, 'cause they're just clouds passing by.

Lord, dear Lord above: God Almighty; God of love,

Please look down and see my people through.

I believe God is now, was then and always will be.

With God's blessing we can make it through eternity.

Lord, dear Lord above: God Almighty; God of love,

Please look down and see my people through.

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11:1 -3, 8-12

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Genesis 12: 1-9

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then

the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Sermon “ The Call of Abraham ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem Canticle of Fellowship – Craig Courtney (1948), text from Col. 3:12-14, and John Fawcett

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Forgive each other as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Before the throne we pour our prayers; our hopes are one, our comforts and our cares. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts, that binds our hearts in love. We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; we shall still be joined in, joined in heart, and hope to meet again. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts, that binds our hearts in love. From sorrow, toil, and pain and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and joy shall reign throughout eternity. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts, that binds our hearts in love.

*** 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 Blessed Be the Tie That Binds, #393, NCH**

*** Blessing**

Closing Song Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God) – Zulu Song, arr. Doreen Rao

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

Our Deacons are Liz Loomis and Jeffrey Bodmer -Turner.

Sunday, Sept. 22 Youth Fellowship begins!

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

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.

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 begins in September .

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.

Soup and Conversation: Faith Formation 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. Want to help? We need volunteers to bring soup and cookies, or to help with setup/clean up. Speak with Rev. Katherine or sign up on our signup sheet at

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49_-48314195-soup

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

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

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.

September 30, 6:30 PM ¶**The Frozen River**¶ by Ariel Lawhorn, meeting at Liz Loomis¶ home, 34 Bennett St. Manchester.

RSVP to loomisliz@hotmail.com.

October 28, 6:30 PM ¶**The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store**¶ by James McBride at Joan Wogan¶ home 5 Ledgewood Rd. Manchester.

RSVP to Joan at joanwogan@gmail.com.