

**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 8, 2024
10:00 am

Ring of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Song of India - Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: Come with your questions, come with your awe!

Many: For the God who broods over the chaos
meets us in this place.

One: Come with your energy, come with your weariness!

Many: For the God who breathes new life into the dust
meets us in this place.

One: Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

Many: For the God who dared to become human
meets us in this place.

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 Come With Joy, #349, NCH

Scripture Reading and Litany Nancy Peterson Genesis 1:1 -2:3

One: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void, and darkness covered the face of the deep, and the spirit of God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said,

Many: 'Let there be light. '

One: And there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

Many: And there was evening and there was morning, the first day .

One: God, help us to remember that you are the source of life, and are intimately connected with all living things. You bring form out of chaos, and call all things into being. Everything that we have is thanks to you, O God.

One: And God said,

Many: 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters. '

One: So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky.

Many: And there was evening and there was morning, the second day .

One: The air that we breathe is yours, O God. The waters are yours too. Sustain us with breath, and slake our thirst, that we might build a world where all can breathe free and find refreshment in you.

One: And God said,

Many: 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear. '

One: God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said ,

Many: 'Let the earth produce plants and trees. '

One: And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good .

Many: And there was evening and there was morning, the third day .

One: Praise be to You, O God, for the growth from seed to plant, the greening of the earth; its fruit—both beauty and food!

One: And God said,

Many: 'Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, to give light to the earth. '

One: And it was so. God made the sun, the moon, and the stars, in order to shine light upon the earth. And God saw that it was good .

Many: And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day .
One: Architect of the Universe, Your voice continues to call us past the edges of our exploration, beckoning us towards the unknown, the new, the infinite.

One: And God said,

Many: 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky. '

One: So God created the sea creatures of every kind, and all the winged birds. God blessed them, saying,

Many: 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. '

One: And God saw that it was good.

Many: And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day .

One: Out of space and time you brought forth material substance:

The atom and the molecule and the crystalline form:

Then the first germ of life and the long upward striving of all things: that swim and creep and fly.

One: And God said,

Many: 'Let the earth teem with countless living creatures of every kind. '

One: And it was so. God made the wild animals and the livestock and everything that creeps on the earth. And God saw that it was good. Then God said,

Many: "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over all the animals of the earth .

One: So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; God blessed them, and God said to them,

Many: 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it. See, I have given you every plant upon the face of all the earth; you shall have them for food.

One: God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Many: And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day .

One: Thank you God, for generations of life tumbling one after another. Life creeping, swimming, flying, running, below, above, upon, within. All the

world sings, calls, signals, speaks praise to you, whose glory grows in all that breathes!

One: Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude.

Many: On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day.

One: So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation .

One: Fill us, enliven us, to be ambassadors of life abundant, breathing out your song in harmony, singing to you, our Creator, whose glory shines through all the world. Amen.

Blessing of the Backpack s

Passing of the Peace

Anthem Awake, My Soul, and Sing – Allen Pote (1945–2010) text: based on Psalms 71 & 108

Awake, my soul, and sing; arise and sing a psalm. For great are you, Lord, and great Your love; Your kindness is forever. You have been my hope, my confidence since my youth. I will proclaim Your marvelous deeds. I will ever sing praises. Even when I am growing old, do not forsake me, O God. I will declare Your strength and power to the next generation, to all who are to come. Awake, my soul, and sing. Arise and sing a psalm. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, your glory over all the earth. You have been my rock, my fortress, and my shield. I will ever praise Your name, for you are my God. Awake, my soul, and sing. Arise and sing a psalm. Great are You, Lord, and great Your love. You are my God! Awake, my soul, awake, my soul, and sing!

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 temptat ion, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Meditation Andante, from 'Orfeo & Euridice' – C. W. Gluck (1714-1787)
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Godly Play: Creation Story

Sermon "Just Right" Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem Amazing Grace – trad., arr. Ed Lojeski

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart, my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious, precious grace that grace did appear t he hour I first believed! Thru many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. Amazing grace, amazing grace, bright shining as the sun. We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun. Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

*** 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 Assurance, #473, 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.
Greeter Nancy Peterson.**

**Join us for our Thank you Gathering, later today 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

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.

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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.



Thank you to all who sent us updated information so we could update our church directory this Fall! Paper copies are available at the Church and in the Church Office.

Updated photos are always welcome send them along to office.fpchurch@gmail.com.

We hope to produce a new edition in Spring 2025.

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.

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).



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

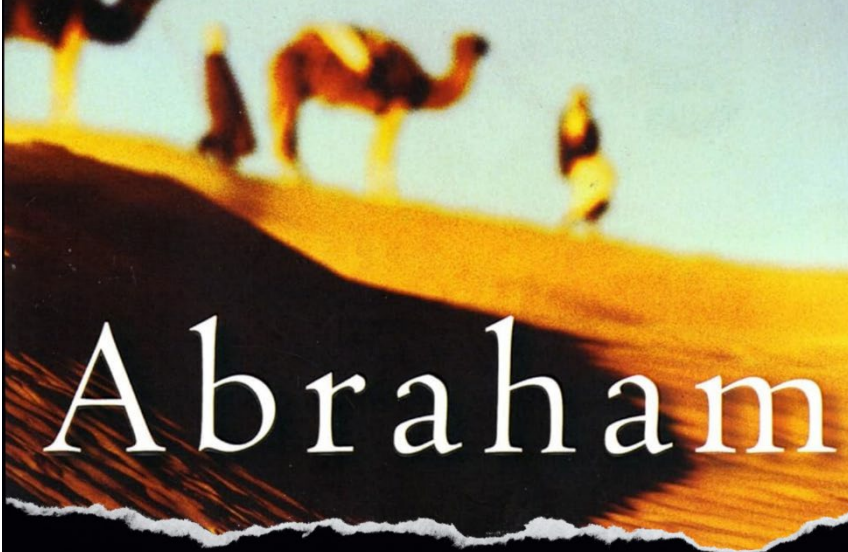
Book Group is open to everyone! Book Group is a time for church members as well as non-church friends to come together and engage with one another, build relationships, and share in a discussion of books that are of interest to people of various backgrounds. We have fun visiting, conversing about the 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.




Abraham

FALL SERMON SERIES

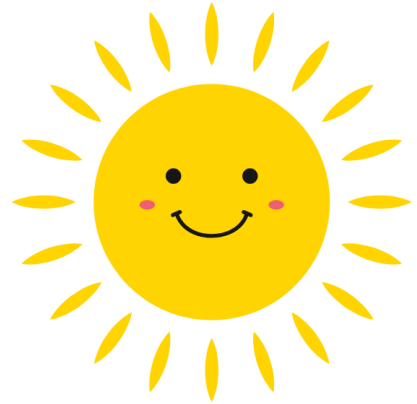
The man at the heart of the world's three monotheistic religions has much to teach us about bravery, sacrifice, legacy and love.

SUNDAYS | 10:00 AM | BEGINNING 9/15



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Family Worship
at First Parish Church



September 8th - Rally Day!
October 6th - World Communion
November 3rd - All Saints Day
December 1st - Advent

Family Worship is a monthly
hands-on worship service for all
ages. Using art, storytelling,
poetry, prayer and music we will
celebrate life and faith together.
All are welcome!

