



**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 October 20, 2024
10:00 am**

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude I Stand All Amazed – Charles H. Gabriel, arr. by Linda Hartman

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

Many: And our spirits rejoice in you.

One: We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.

Many: We will trust in you –Creator of heaven and earth,

One: The One who gives food to the hungry,

Many: The One who enacts justice for the oppressed.

One: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

Many: As we worship you 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** The God of Abraham Praise - #24, NCH

*** Prayer of Invocation**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem When the Stars Are Gone – Henry Mollicone (1946 – 2022) words by Robert Louis Stevenson

The stars shine over the mountains, the stars shine over the sea, the stars look up to the mighty God, the stars look down on me; the stars shall last

for a million years, a million years and a day, but God and I will live and love when the stars have passed away.

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 Cavatina, from String Quartet, op. 130 – L. van Beethoven, arr. by Balakirev

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Reading Jane Pearson Genesis 21:1-21

¹ The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ² Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." ⁷ And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." ¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also,

because he is your offspring.”¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Sermon “ The Children of Abraham ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem One Faith, One Hope, One Lord – Craig Courtney (1948)
One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which He died,
One voice, one song we lift in praise to him who was and is and shall be
evermore. There is one body, one spirit, as you were called to one hope;
one Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Father of all, who is in you all.
Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts, we are given to
each other for the unity of faith, that we grow in the knowledge of the Son
of God, in the fullness of Christ.

*** 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 Great Is Your Faithfulness - #423, NCH**

* **Blessing**

Closing Song God Be with You – Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)
God be with you ‘till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you ‘till we meet again.

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

Our Deacons are Sue Parker and Jason Smith .

Our Greeters are Allison Moir -Smith and Jane Pearson .

Music note: Seldom does a composer remark about the effect his/her music has personally. However, Beethoven admitted in a letter to a friend that the ‘Cavatina’ had the power to move even himself to tears. As part of his enormous String Quartet, op. 130, it precedes the ‘Great Fugue’ finale and is thus often overlooked. This morning we will hear a transcription for piano by Mily Balakirev (best known for composing ‘Islamay’, one of the truly fiendish works for piano solo).

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.

You're Invited to attend the **Youth Fellowship Sponsored Halloween Party**, October 27, 6 - 7:30 in the Chapel Hall. All ages are encouraged to come as you are or to come as something else! Games and snacks, a Halloween Family appropriate movie and an opportunity to experience mummification await. Don't be late!

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, October 3 and 17. 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 has begun.

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.

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
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.

October 28, 6:30 PM ¶**The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store**¶ by James McBride at Joan Wogan's home 5 Ledgewood Rd. Manchester.
RSVP to Joan at joanwogan@gmail.com.