



**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 27, 2024
10:00 am**

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Love Divine, All Love Excelling – Hans Klotz (1900-1987)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: Come, let us worship and bow down
in awe of God's steadfast love for us.

Many: For God gives ear to our words;
God listens to the sound of our cries.

One: Come, let us take refuge in the God of our salvation.

Many: For God is our shield,
our protection in times of trouble.

One: Come, let us rejoice and sing for joy!

Many: For God is surely in this place!
Let us worship God!

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** Sweet, Sweet Spirit - #293, NCH

*** Prayer of Invocation**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem Dear Lord and Father of Mankind – Hubert Parry (1848-1918)
Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways! Re-clothe us
in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise; O Sabbath rest
by Galilee!
O calm of hills above, where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of
eternity interpreted by love!

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 You Raise Me Up/Be Still, My Soul – Brendan Graham (1945) &
Jean Sibelius (1865-1957), arr. Tom Fettke

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Be still, my soul! The Lord is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief
or pain. Leave to your God to order and provide; in ev'ry change He
faithfully will remain. Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still know His
voice who ruled them while He dwelled below. When I am down and oh,
my soul, so weary; when troubles come and my heart burdened be; then I
am still and wait here in the silence until you come and sit awhile with me.
You raise me up so I can stand on mountains. You raise me up to walk on
stormy seas. I am strong when I am on Your shoulders. You raise me up to
more than I can be. There is no life, no life without its hunger. Each restless
heart beats so imperfectly. But when you come, and I am filled with
wonder, sometimes I think I glimpse eternity. You raise me up so I can
stand on mountains. You raise me up to walk on stormy seas. I am strong
when I am on Your shoulders. You raise me up to walk on stormy seas. I
am strong when I am on Your shoulders. You raise me up to more than I
can be. You raise me up so I can stand on mountains. You raise me up to
walk on stormy seas. I am strong when I am on Your shoulders. You raise
me up to more than I can be.

Scripture Reading Genesis 22:1 -18 Chip Price

¹ After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your offspring shall all the

nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Sermon “ The Testing of Abraham ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem My Lord, What a Mornin’ – Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh
(1866 – 1949)

My Lord what a mornin’ when the stars begin to fall. Done quit all my worldly ways;
joined that heavenly band. Oh! My Lord what a mornin’ when the stars begin to fall.

*** 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 I Want Jesus to Go with Me - #490, 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 Pam & Chip Price.

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**. Today 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, November 7 and 21. 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 is 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

It is time for the **Council on Aging Bags** ! Lists are in the Narthex for items and the items can be put in bins in the narthex or outside the church office by November 6th. There are 20 COA bags. This mission is sponsored by Women's Fellowship, Outreach & Service and is open to the entire church. Any questions please ask Nancy Klebart or Mary Ellen Cook.

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.

Tomorrow, 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.