



**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 Thanksgiving and Consecration Sunday  
November 24, 2024  
10:00 am**

**Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles**

**Prelude Thanksgiving – George Winston (1949)**

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

**\* Call to Worship**

One: The time of gathering is here.

**Many: We have come from near and far to offer our praise to God, the  
source of our many blessings.**

One: Open your hearts to God's compassionate words of love.

**Many: As we receive God's gifts in gratitude may we live lives of  
helpful service to others.**

**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 For the Beauty of the Earth - #28, NCH**

**\* Prayer of Invocation**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Choir Anthem Built on a Rock the Church Shall Stand – Dale Wood (1934 –  
2003)**

Built on a Rock the Church shall stand, even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, bells still are chiming and calling.

**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** Prelude #2, in C# (from '3 Preludes') – George Gershwin 1898-1937)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

### **Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 26:1 -11 Sandy Bodmer -Turner**

<sup>1</sup>“When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

## Sermon “ We Will Come Rejoicing ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Stewardship Reflection Dave DeMoura

### Invitation to the Offering

**Anthem** Goodness of God – Ed Cash (1971), arr. Mary McDonald

Solo: Rebecca Shrimpton

God is so good, He's so good to me. I love you, Lord, o Your mercy never fails me – all my days I've been held in Your hands; from the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, O I will sing of the goodness of God. And all my life You have been faithful, and all my life You have been so, so good; with ev'ry breath that I am able, O I will sing of the goodness of God. I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire, And in darkest nights You are close like no other; I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend, and I have lived in the goodness of God. And all my life You have been faithful, And all my life You have been so, so good; With ev'ry breath that I am able, O I will sing of the goodness of God. 'Cause Your goodness is running after me; With my life laid down I will surrender now, I give You everything, cause Your goodness is running after me. And all my life I have been faithful, And all my life You have been so, so good; ev'ry breath that I am able, O I will sing of the goodness of God.

### \* 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 and Consecration

One: Source of every good thing, light and love come from you. You have created us and you continue to breathe life into us through the power of your holy spirit. Holy God,

**Many: We dedicate this offering of gifts and pledges - and we dedicate ourselves - to the work of building your realm here on earth.**

One: You have given us so much. May this collection be used wisely and diligently so that your love may be known widely. Holy God,

**Many: We dedicate this offering of gifts and pledges - and we dedicate ourselves - to the work of building your realm here on earth.**

**\* Hymn** “Hymn for 300th Anniversary” First Parish Church, Congregational  
Words written by Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith, 2016  
Tune: “Duke Street”

First Parish Church, Congregational, sings.  
Clear from God’s people the chorus rings,  
Brightly and boldly, giving glory and praise  
Over three hundred years of faithful days.

Down all the years the faith story we tell.  
Someone stands ready to ring the bell  
Calling folks out on each Sunday morn  
To welcome and baptize the next newborn.

In joy and in grief we gather to pray,  
Follow Christ’s life and truth and way,  
Never forgetful of whose we are  
And that our God is never far.

Brightly and boldly, give glory and praise  
Over three hundred years of faithful days.  
Stand with the founders right here on the town green,  
God’s folk in Manchester since 1716.

**\* Blessing**

**Closing Song** - The Peace of the Earth – words and music Guatemalan traditional

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too; the peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans too. Deep peace falling over you; God’s peace growing in you.

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

**Our Deacons are Janet Groth & John Feuerbach .**

**Our Greeters are Sandy and Jeff Bodmer -Turner**

**Today's altar flowers are given by the Stewardship Committee to thank everyone for their generosity in our Annual Pledge Drive 2025. We would like Reverend Katherine to enjoy these flowers with her family on Thanksgiving.**

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](#).

### **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.

**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](http://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).

**The Seaside Parish Knitters** meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm, December 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.

**A Church Directory, Fall** is available at the Church and in the Church Office.

### **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, at 6:30 PM, and hosting is shared among members.

**November 25**, 6:30 PM discussing “Table for Two” by Amor Towles at Marianne Round’s home 3 Greenbrier Rd. Manchester. RSVP to Marianne at 978-902-5452 or [marianne.round@gmail.com](mailto:marianne.round@gmail.com).

**December 16**, 6:30 PM Christmas potluck dinner at Nancy Peterson’s home 111 Chebacco Rd. South Hamilton. Participating in a Yankee Swap, with a wrapped used book, is optional. RSVP to Nancy at 508 -284-0883 or [nancypete1@gmail.com](mailto:nancypete1@gmail.com).