



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 Sunday
January 19, 2025
10:00 am**

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude It is Well with My Soul – Philip Bliss (1838-1876), arr. Christine Sullivan Robbins

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

Many: God has called us to create the Beloved Community together.

One: We are all manifestations of God's image,
bound together in a single garment of destiny.

Many: God calls us to share our diverse gifts

And join the unending work of justice, peace and love.

One: Under the shadow of God's wings in this hour,

Many: May we find rest and strength, renewal and hope. Amen.

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 Blessed Assurance – #473, NCH**

***Prayer of Invocation**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem I Come With Joy – Brian Wren (1936) & Peter Niedmann (1960)

I come with joy, a child of God forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall,

in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love

in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here. Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

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 Weeping Willow Rag - Scott Joplin (1868-1917)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 12:4 -7 Paul Clark

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

John 2:1 -11

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. ⁹ When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Sermon " Water Into Wine " Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Hem of Your Robe – Pepper Choplin (1957)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

When our worship moves higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. When our worship moves higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. For all heaven's praise and all heaven's songs make all out humble worship seem lowly. For our highest praise and our highest songs are just a tiny glimpse of Your glory and Your pow'r. When we're bowing lower, let us touch the hem of Your robe. When we're bowing lower, let us touch the hem of Your robe. For all heaven's praise and all heaven's songs make all out humble worship seem lowly. For our highest praise and our highest songs are just a tiny glimpse of Your glory and Your pow'r. Lord, You lift us higher, Lord, You lift us higher, Lord, You lift us higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe. Lord, You lift us higher, Lord, You lift us higher, Lord, You lift us higher, let us touch the hem of Your robe.

*** 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 Be Now My Vision - #451, 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 Marianne Round.
Our Greeters are Wendy and Paul Clark.**

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](#).

A 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.

Family Worship (first Sunday of the month) children of all ages stay in worship for these special intergenerational services.

Church School (all other Sundays) children depart from worship around 10:15a for their own time of learning, crafting, sharing and playing.

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).

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm, Jan 2 and 16. 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.

The Annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16 following worship. All committee reports are due in the First Parish Church office by Friday, January 31 and the full report will be available in church and online on February 9.

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.

January 27 , 6:30 PM at Mary Lumsden's home, 18 Woodcrest Rd. Manchester. We will discuss the book *The Winter Soldier* by Daniel Mason. RSVP to Mary at 978-500-4571 or rasc84@hotmail.com.

Hands on Opportunities at First Parish

First Parish resume d serving at The Open Door in January. We will serve the 2nd Wednesday of each month (Feb. 12, Mar 12, Apr 9...) 2 volunteers are needed from 3:30-6:30 on each of those dates. You can sign up on our Sign Up Genius online (link below) or by speaking to Jim Brennan after worship or at 978-580-9623.



https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49_-54306850-open

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

CHURCH SCHOOL

Families start Sunday in worship until 10:15a when children depart to Church School (Except 1st Sundays - when children stay in church for All-Ages Family Worship) Our kids engage in hands-on, age-appropriate learning opportunities that integrate storytelling, the arts and spiritual development in a safe and family-friendly environment.



At First Parish Church, we value kids of all ages and encourage families of all configurations to join in our Christian worship, activities and spiritual experiences. The staff and volunteers at First Parish Church are committed to respect, safety and the strengthening of relationships encompassed in God's Love and illuminating Christ's life and work. For more info contact jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com.



YOUTH GROUP

Gathers monthly for service projects, arts and crafts, and social events.