



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 26, 2025
10:00 am**

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Adoration – Florence Price (1887-1953)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,

All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

All: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

All: Who chooses even you and me,

to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.

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 Praise to the Living God - #8, NCH**

***Prayer of Invocation**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem For the Beauty of the Earth – John Rutter (1945)

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful

hymn of praise. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and trees and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given, graces human and divine flowers of earth and buds of heav'n: Lord of all to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn of praise

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 I'll Make Me a Man – Roland Hayes. Words: traditional African-American, collected by James Weldon Johnson (from 'God's Trombones')
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Then God walked around, and God looked around on all that He had made. He looked at His sun, He looked at His moon, and His lit'l stars. He looked on His world with all its living things, and God said, "I'm lonely still!" God sat down on the side of a hill, God sat down where He could think, God sat down by a deep, wide river, God sat down with His head in His hands, God thought and thought, 'till He thought "I'll make me a man". Up from the bed of the river, God scooped -a the clay and by the bank of the river, God kneeled Him down. And there this great God almighty! Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky, Who flung the stars to the most far corners of the night, Who rounded the earth in the hollow of His hand, this great God, this great God like a mammy bending over her babe, kneeled down in the dust, toiling over this lump of clay 'till He shaped it in His own image. Then into it He blew the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Amen.

Scripture Reading Brian Parker 1 Corinthians 12:12 -31a

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the

one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Sermon “ One Body ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Follow Me to Jordan – Jay Althouse (1951)

Follow me to Jordan. Follow me on home. Follow me to Jordan. Follow me all the way home. Follow me to Jordan. Follow me on home. Follow me to Jordan. Follow me all the way home. I will follow King Jesus. I'll wait for His command. Ev'ry day he will show me the way, He said: Follow me to

Jordan. Follow me on home. Follow me to Jordan. Follow me all the way home. I will follow King Jesus for now and evermore, until we reach that heavenly shore. He said: Follow me to Jordan. Follow me on home. Follow me to Jordan. Follow me all the way home. I'm going home.

*** 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 All Things Bright and Beautiful - #31, 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 Sue Parker .

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, Feb 6 and 20. 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.

Tomorrow, 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.