



**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 Communion Family Sunday
February 2, 2025
10:00 am

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Song of India - Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: We do not gather in vain, for God is working in our hearts.

Many: The love of Jesus Christ calls us together.

One: Our worship strengthens and empowers us to share the gospel.

Many: The love of Jesus Christ shines in our lives.

One: Proclaim the good news with boldness.

Many: The love of Jesus Christ is at work in the world!

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.

Prayer of Invocation

***Hymn** Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows - #248, NCH

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Anthem My Shepherd Will Supply My Need – arr. Virgil Thomson (1896-1989)
My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is His name. In pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream. He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake His ways. He leads me for His mercy's sake in paths of truth

and grace. When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay. One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away, Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread. My cup with blessings overflows, Thine all anoints my head. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days, o may thy house be my abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come, no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

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 Traumerei (Dreaming)- 'Scenes from Childhood') - Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 Shelby Markey

¹ If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a

child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Sermon “A Still More Excellent Way ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem With a Voice of Singing – Martin Shaw (1875 – 1958)

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honour of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Alleluia. Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

*** 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.**

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Welcome to Christ's table.

All: We are glad to be here!

One: Lift up your hunger.

All: We do not hide our needs before God.

One: Prepare yourself to be hosted and fed.

All: The Bread of Life is our joy and satisfaction.

The Breaking, Pouring, and Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Many: O Jesus, our beloved, we give you thanks for inviting us to your table and sharing your feast. May we know that we have been fed with love and grace, and may we follow you out in the world, ambassadors of your hope and peace. Amen.

*** Hymn** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - #43, NCH

*** 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 Nancy Peterson and Paul Gudonis .

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!

Feb. 24, 6:30 PM we meet to discuss “The Art Thief” at Mary Ellen Cook’s home, 21 Harold St, Manchester. RSVP to Mary Ellen (for planning purposes only) at 978-500-0018 or cook.maryellen7@gmail.com.

Book Group meets on the last Monday of the month, at 6:30 PM, and hosting is shared among members.

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



Please join us as we celebrate the

Pastoral Installation

of

Rev. Katherine A. Schofield

Sunday, March 2 at 3:00 pm

First Parish Church, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Taylor

Reception to Follow