



**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  
Sunday Worship, 10:00 am  
February 9, 2025**

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

**Prelude** Barcarolle (from 'The Tales of Hoffmann') – Jacques Offenbach  
(1819-1880)

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

**\* Call to Worship**

One: Gentle and patient, God is calling.

**Many: Careful and persistent, God is calling.**

One: In grieving and in praise, God is calling.

**Many: In vulnerability and in power, God is calling.**

One: May we be diligent to listen for God's voice,

**Many: And prepare our hearts to respond.**

**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** Spirit of Love - #58, NCH

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Anthem** If Ye Love Me – Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He  
shall give you another comforter, the He may bide with you forever, ev'n  
the spirit of truth.

## **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 Must Believe in Spring – Michel Legrand (1932-2019);

lyrics by Alan and Marilyn Bergman

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

When lonely feelings chill the meadows of your mind, just think when winter comes, can spring be far behind? Beneath the deepest snows, the secret of a rose is merely that it knows you must believe in spring. Just as a tree is sure its leaves will reappear, it knows its emptiness is just a time of year. The frozen mountain dreams of April's melting streams. How crystal clear it seems you must believe in spring. When angry voices drown the music of the spheres and children face a world that's far beyond their years, above the darkest sky the far horizons lie, with all the reasons why, you must believe in spring. You must believe in love and trust it's on its way, just as the sleeping rose awaits the kiss of May. So in a world of snow, of things that come and go, where what you think you know, you can't be certain of: you must believe in spring and love.

#### **Scripture Reading Luke 5: 1-11 Liz Loomis**

1 Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup> he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so

also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." <sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

## **Sermon "Into the Deep" Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** The Gift of Love – arr. Hal H. Hopson (1933)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come spirit come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole, O come, spirit, come let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship, and are freed. Amen

**\* 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** Sent Forth by God's Blessing - #76, 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 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](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, 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 resumed 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