



**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  
March 2, 2025  
10:00 am

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

**Prelude** Love Divine, All Love Excelling – Hans Klotz (1900-1987)

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

**\* Call to Worship** Psalm 119

One: Teach us, O LORD, the way of your statutes,

**Many: And we will observe them to the end.**

One: Give us understanding,

**Many: That we may keep your law**

**and observe it with our whole heart .**

One: Lead us in the path of your commandments ,

**Many: For we delight in them.**

One: Turn our hearts to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

**Many: Turn our eyes from the things of vanity;**

**give us life in your ways .**

One: We long for your guidance.

**Many: In your righteousness give us life. 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.*

**Prayer of Invocation**

**\*Hymn** Glorious Things of You Are Spoken - #307, NCH

**Children's Message**

## 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 temptat ion, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Meditation** Come Thou Font of Every Blessing – Robert Robinson (1735-1790), arr. Linda Hartman

Dr. Herman Weiss piano

### **Scripture Reading s Luke 6:27 -38 Allison Moir -Smith**

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

## **Sermon “ The Third Way ” Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** Plenty Good Room – traditional, arr. Maags  
Plenty good room in my Father’s Kingdom, so choose your seat and sit down.

I would not be a liar. I’ll tell you the reason why: ‘cause if my Lord should call me up, I wouldn’t be ready to die. No, I wouldn’t be ready to die. Oh, there’s plenty good room in y Father’s kingdom, so choose your seat and sit down. I would not be a gam bler. I’ll tell you the reason why: ‘cause if my Lord should call me up, I wouldn’t be ready to die. No, I wouldn’t be ready to die. Plenty good room in my Father’s Kingdom, so choose your seat and sit down.

### **\* 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 Breaking, Pouring, and Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

#### **The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**One:** May God be with you

**Many:** And also with you.

**One:** Lift your hearts.

**Many:** We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the God we love.  
Many: **We freely give God thanks and praise.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (in unison)

Many: **We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**\* Hymn** Lord, I Want To Be a Christian – 454, 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 Jason Smith and Jeff Bodmer -Turner.**  
**Our Greeter is Allison Moir -Smith .**

The container of Hellebore plants on the altar today is given in celebration of the covenant made today by Reverend Katherine Schofield to First Parish Church Congregational, at her installation. The entire congregation expresses our gratitude and agape love.

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.

**We plan to produce a new Church Directory edition this Spring 2025.**

Updated photos are always welcome send them along to office.fpchurch@gmail.com.

Thank you to all who sent us updated information so we could update our church directory last Fall! Paper copies of the Fall directory are 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 Annual Church Meeting** will be held Sunday, March 9 following worship. A light lunch will be provided by the Deacons.

**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.

**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! March 31, 6:30 PM we meet to discuss “Exodus” at Carol Spence’s home, 4 Overledge Rd, Manchester. RSVP to Carol (for planning purposes only) at (240) 305-5520 or [cdspence@gmail.com](mailto:cdspence@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



We are once again offering beautiful FPC t-shirts for the whole family – and adult sweatshirts (see the link below!) Whether wearing them as you run errands, do housework or attend one of the many church-organized community outreach events that we have during the year

you are sure to be a stylish “joyful beacon to the world!”

**Deadline March 2nd!!**

Here is the link to order **Note** - sizes run small!

All orders will be delivered to the church office, and we will let you know when they arrive! Please see Rev. Katherine, Bethany or Nancy if you have any questions!



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