



***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, 10 AM, Sunday
April 19, 2026**

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Passacaglia – Andre Raison (1650-1740)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: O Divine Voice, You sing and the universe comes into being;

Many: You breathe and all things spring to life;

One: You call and creation is sustained;

Many: You are the pulse of all that is.

One: In amazement and awe, in wonder and celebration we marvel at this mystery:

Many: In you all things live and move and have their being.

One: And so we join with creation in the eternal song of worship and wonder.

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 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us - #252, NCH**

Prayer of Invocation

Passing of the Peace

Anthem All Things Bright and Beautiful – John Rutter (1945), lyrics by Cecil Frances Alexander

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all. Each little flow'r that opens, each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings. All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and

wonderful, the Lord God made them all. The purple-headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset and the morning, that brightens up the sky; the cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, He made them ev'ry one: All things bright and beautiful, all

creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all. He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God almighty, who has made all things well. All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

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 We Sing to Him – Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

We sing to Him, whose wisdom was formed the ear, our songs, let Him who gave us voices, hear. We joy in God, who is the spring of mirth, who loves the harmony of Heaven and Earth. Our humble sonnets shall that praise rehearse, who is the music of the Universe. And whilst we sing, we consecrate our art, and offer up with ev'ry tongue a heart.

Scripture Reading Paul Lengeiza

Job 12:7-10

⁷ “But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

⁸ ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

⁹ Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?

¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans^[a] in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Sermon “Continuous Creation” 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 my Father’s kingdom, so choose your seat and sit down. I would not be a gambler. 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.**

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn Crown Him with Many Crowns - #199, Pilgrim Hymnal

*** 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 Nancy Peterson and John Feuerbach.

Join us, following worship, for coffee and conversation!

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

Save the Date! Spring Trail Cleanup with Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust

Saturday, May 2nd (rain date May 9th)

Join the Outreach and Service team for an all-ages hands-on service project. Let's do our part to care for the earth and ensure that everyone has a chance to enjoy the gifts of creation.

New Members Info Session today, Sunday, April 19th, following worship

Want to learn more about the life of this community of faith, ask any questions you may have, and get to know other newcomers and church members? Whether you're planning to join First Parish Church as a member or not, this Info Session will help you learn more about our commitments as a faith community, the various programs and ministries we offer, and how you can get involved. Contact Pastor Katherine for more info.

You can contribute to the good work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge by Venmo to [@FirstParish-Church](https://www.venmo.com/@FirstParish-Church) (Church cell phone 978-907-3781). You can also use [@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&source=url&url=https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/FPChurchManchester).

Prayer Wall - Give it a try! Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. <https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/> Feel more connected to the Joys and Concerns of our congregation, and hear what's on each other's hearts. You will be touched to receive notifications every time someone prays for you. We also have traveling prayers walls throughout the year. Look for us at the 4th of July Parade, Festival by the Sea, Burgers & Bingo and other community events!



Looking for a space for your upcoming event?

Our community hall is a lovely spot, with a sound system and projector available. Members pay a discounted rate. Check availability by call 978-526-7661 x1 or email office.fpchurch@gmail.com.

Events going on in our hall during the week –

Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee & Conversation - Every Monday (except holidays) 9:45 - 11:45 AM at the First Parish Community Hall. Hospitality provided by The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging. Come sit down, talk and play some games!

Strong Women Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 AM Sponsored by the Council on Aging

Mindfulness Meditation Wednesdays 11AM, 5 PM sponsored by the MBTS Library



Stephen's Ministry 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).

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 (second 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.

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, ***note the change in April - April 9 & 23, 1-3 PM**. We welcome all to stop by. 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 The March Book Group was well attended with 15. We had three new members discussing our book, *The Glassmaker*. Mary Ellen Cook was the host. Our April group will be at Carol Spence’s home on Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 PM because of town meeting on the 27th. We will gather to discuss “The Chaperone” by Laura Moriarty at Carol Spence’s home, 4 Overledge Road MBTS. RSVP to Carol at (240) 305-5520 or cdspence@gmail.com for planning purposes. 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. Book Group usually meets on the last Monday of the month, (Except in April!) at 6:30 PM, and hosting is shared among members.

Hands on Community Service

- **Operation Troop Support** Socks, any size any color. Small board and card games.
- **The Open Door** Pantry items welcome. Pancake & waffle mix, maple syrup, 100% fruit juice. They are also grateful for bake mixes including muffin mixes.
- **The Grace Center** welcomes gift cards from local grocery markets to help the center provide cream, butter and other perishables.

Items can be dropped at the Chapel or Church –

First Parish Church serves dinner at The Open Door, Gloucester, Emerson Ave. Gloucester, monthly. Sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-54306850-open#/> or speak with Coordinator Jim Brennan 978-580- 9623.