



***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
February 1, 2026**

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**

One: When we love God by serving others,

Many: We fulfill the greatest of the commandments.

One: When we share bread with the hungry poor,

Many: Then light shall break forth like the morning.

One: When we bring in those who are cast out,

Many: Then righteousness shall go before us.

One: Let us boast in the Lord, for God is the source of light and life!

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad! 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.

*** Opening Hymn** O Jesus, I Have Promised - #493, NCH

Prayer of Invocation

Presentation of New Members

Alice Gould

Mark Jackson

Shelby Markey

Sarah Tanksley

Litany of Intent

One: Friends in Christ, these people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. They have been led by the Spirit to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Christian church.

Many: They are here, as we are here, to endeavor to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. God help us.

One: Friends who are joining, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith which has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Do you promise, by the grace of God, to continue in your pilgrimage of faith, to be Christ's disciple, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Those joining: We do.

One: Do you promise to walk with us in faithfulness and in Christian love? And do you promise, that so far as able, you will participate in the life of this church, by worshiping God with us, and offering your time, talent and means for the ministry of this church and for the larger church of which this is a part?

Those joining: We do.

One: Friends, we then welcome you as partners in the common life of this church and join our voices to share our covenant of mission with you.

***All: We pledge to give ourselves to the one whom Jesus called "Abba, Father," as the God in whose love we are grounded, and to Jesus Christ, God incarnate, our salvation and strength. We give ourselves to God the Holy Spirit, our comforter and guide, and trust in the Good News of the Holy Scriptures as the rule of our faith and practice. We promise to walk in covenant with one another, with the wider church, and with the First Parish Church, Congregational. We promise to walk secure in God's grace, prepared in gratitude to live by our promises and to serve by the word of the Gospel.**

Congregational Greeting

Passing of the Peace

Anthem Blessed Is the Man – Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in the law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree that is

planted by the rivers of waters, that bringeth forth his fruit in due season. His leaf shall not wither, and what he doeth shall prosper, shall prosper. And what he doeth shall prosper.

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 He That Keepeth Israel – Adolphe Schloesser (1820-1881)

Victor Ikpe, solo

He that keepeth Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. He will give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. He that keepeth Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Put thy trust in Him and call upon Him, for His ears are open unto thy prayers. He that keepeth Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.

Scripture Reading Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon “Blessed Be” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Steal Away – spiritual, arr. Nicholas White

Chorus: Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus, Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

Verse: My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the thunder; the trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

Chorus:

Verse: Green trees are bendin', poor sinners stand a-tremblin'; the trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

Chorus:

*** 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)

ALL: 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 Called as Partners in God's Service - #495, 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 Susan Parker.

This morning's altar flowers are given by the American Legion of Essex County - District 8 in gratitude for FPC hosting this afternoon's Four Chaplains Memorial Service. All are invited to attend at 2pm.

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

You can contribute to the good work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge @PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester or Venmo to @FirstParish-Church (978-907-3781).

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, **Feb. 5 & 19, 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.

An updated Church Directory edition is now available in the Narthex and at the Church Office -

Do we have your contact information? Your birthday? Updated photos of you or your family are welcome! Send them along to office.fpchurch@gmail.com.



Hands on Community Service, all 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.
- **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.

Considering Book Group? Try us out in the new year!

Upcoming February 23rd, 6:30 PM we will meet at Mary Ellen Cook's home, 23 Harold St, MBTS. We will discuss *The Grimkes: The Legacy of Slavery in an American Family* by Kerri K. Greenidge and selections from "Praise, Lament, and Prayer: A Psalter for Singing" by Carl P. Daw, Jr." (Contact Rev. K for a copy).

RSVP to Mary Ellen at 978-500-0018 or cook.maryellen7@gmail.com for planning purposes only.

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, at 6:30 PM, and hosting is shared among members.