



**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
January 11, 2026**

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 (Psalm 29)**

One: Come, all who are gathered to worship God:

Many: Let us sing to the glory of God's name!

One: The voice of God is over the waters.

Many: The God of glory thunders over mighty waters.

One: May the LORD give strength to the people!

Many: May the LORD bless the people with peace!

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** Blessed Assurance – #473, NCH

Children's Message

Prayer of Invocation

*** Passing of the Peace**

Anthem A Winter Carol - Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010), poem by Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow has left the heav'ns all coldly clear;
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow, and all the earth lies dead
and drear. And yet God's love is not withdrawn; His life within the keen air
breathes;

His beauty paints the crimson dawn, and clothes the boughs with glittering
wreaths. And though abroad the sharp winds blow, and skies are chill, and
frosts are keen, Home closer draws her circle now, and warmer glows her
light within.

O God! Who giv'st the winter's cold as well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in Thy love enfold, and keep us through life's wintry days.

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 Bewilderment – Florence B. Price (1887-1953), text Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I ask you this: Which way to go. I ask you this: Which way to go. I ask you this: Which sin to bear. I ask you this: Which sin to bear. I ask you this: Which crown to put upon my hair. I ask you this: Which crown to put upon my hair. I do not know, I do not know, I do not know. Lord God, I do not know.

Scripture Reading Jane Pearson

Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from

the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Sermon "Reorientation" Rev. Katherine Schofield

Remembrance of Baptism

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem How Firm a Foundation – Mack Wilberg (1955)
How Firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, who unto the Savior for refuge have fled? In ev'ry condition, in sickness, in health, in poverty's vale or abounding in wealth, at home or abroad, on the land or the sea as thy days may demand, so shall thy succor be. Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed, I am thy God and will still give thee aid. I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand. Thy soul that on Jesus hath leaned, for repose I will not, I cannot, desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never forsake! 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 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian – 454, NCH

*** Blessing**

Closing Song The Peace of the Earth – 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.

Our Greeter is Jane Pearson.

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 11- noon 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, **Jan. 8 & 22, 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.

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.

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.

Considering Book Group? Try us out in the new year! We will meet January 26, 6:30 PM 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. RSVP to Mary Ellen at 978-500-0018 or cook.maryellen7@gmail.com for planning purposes only.

Upcoming books -

February 23rd, meeting in the Chapel Conference Room, selections from "Praise, Lament, and Prayer: A Psalter for Singing" by Carl P. Daw, Jr." (Contact Rev. K for a copy).

March 30th, Heather Reid's home, *The Glassmaker* by Tracy Chevalier

April 27th, Carol Spence's home, *The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty

May 25th, Lauren Gudonis' home, *Finding Margaret Fuller* by Allison Pataki

June 29th, Mary Lumsden's home, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson

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.