



***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 25, 2026**

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Adoration – Florence Price (1887-1953)

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

*** Call to Worship Psalm 27**

One: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

**Many: God is our shelter and refuge in times of trouble,
and our hope and joy in times of celebration!**

One: Day after day, we seek God's face
and the assurance of God's holy love:

**Many: O God, do not turn from us or hide your face from us!
Be our guide and our light!**

One: Beloved of God, enter this worship in thanksgiving,
for God is among and within us!

Many: Thanks be to God!

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 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding - #182, NCH**

Prayer of Invocation

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 What a Wonderful World – George David Weiss (1921-2010)/Bob Thiele (1922-1996); arr. Eva Cassidy

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I see trees that are green, red roses too, I'll watch them bloom for me and you and I think to myself - what a wonderful world. I hear babies cry, I watch them grow, and they'll learn much more than I'll ever know, and I say to myself – oh what a wonderful world. The colours of the rainbow so pretty in the sky are also on the faces of the people passing by. I see friends shaking hands saying, "How do you do?" but they're really saying, "I love you". I see trees that are green, and red roses too, I'll watch them bloom for me and you, and I think to myself – oh what a wonderful world. I think to myself – ooh what a wonderful world.

Scripture Reading Allison Moir-Smith Matthew 4:12-23

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As

he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Sermon “The Dawning Light” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Amazing Grace – trad., arr. Ed Lojeski

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart, my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious, precious grace that grace did appear the hour I first believed! Thru many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. Amazing grace, amazing grace, bright shining as the sun. We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun. Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

*** 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 I Love to Tell the Story - #522, 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 Deacon is Jason Smith.
Our Greeter is Allison Moir-Smith.**

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.



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!

Our January 26, gathering has been postponed due to the weather forecast.

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.

**FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE
1 FEBRUARY 2026**



**FIRST PARISH CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL
10 Central Street
Manchester-by-the Sea, MA 01944
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2026, 2:00 PM**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS
MEMORIAL SERVICE
FOR THE FOUR CHAPLAINS**

**Hosted by
AMERICAN LEGION POST 113
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA. 01944**