



**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 18, 2026**

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Precious Lord, Take My Hand - George N. Allen (1812-1877)/Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993); arr. Don Phillips

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

*** Call to Worship** (from Isaiah 42)

One: Thus says the Lord who created the heavens
and stretched them out,

**Many: Who spread out the earth and what comes
from it,**

One: Who gives breath to the people upon it,

Many: And spirit to those who walk in it,

One: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,

Many: I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

One: I have given you a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations.

**All: Sing to the Lord a new song,
God's praise from the end of the earth!**

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** There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit - #293, NCH

Prayer of Invocation

All: Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,

And teach us your justice and peace.

Guide us in the way of loving kindness.

Lead us in the path of compassion.

Lift us in the spirit of Emanuel,

As we join in the beloved community of your church.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

Anthem Goodness of God – Ed Cash (1971), arr. Mary McDonald

Solo: Rebecca Shrimpton

God is so good, He's so good to me. I love you, Lord, o Your mercy never fails me – all my days I've been held in Your hands; from the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, O I will sing of the goodness of God. And all my life You have been faithful, and all my life You have been so, so good; with ev'ry breath that I am able, O I will sing of the goodness of God. I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire, And in darkest nights You are close like no other; I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend, and I have lived in the goodness of God. And all my life You have been faithful, And all my life You have been so, so good; With ev'ry breath that I am able, O I will sing of the goodness of God. 'Cause Your goodness is running after me; With my life laid down I will surrender now, I give You everything, cause Your goodness is running after me. And all my life I have been faithful, And all my life You have been so, so good; ev'ry breath that I am able, O I will sing of the goodness of God.

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 Blues for Duke (from 'Portraits in Jazz') - Valerie Capers* (1935)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Readings David Lumsden

Isaiah 49:1-7

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD
and my reward with my God.”
⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

John 1: 29-34

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

Sermon “When the Holy Spirit calls....” Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem There Is a Balm in Gilead – spiritual, arr. William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Chorus: There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Verse: Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Chorus:

Verse: If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say "He died for all".

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.**

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn Spirit of the Living God - #283, 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 and Paul Gudonis.

Our Greeters are David and Mary Lumsden.

The Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith has been a member of our church and singing in the Choir for 23 years. Lelly has served as Moderator and co-chaired the Education, Nominating and Mission Committees. She has served as Pastor of East Congregational Church of Milton and West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational Church. She has taught in Field Education at Andover Newton Theological School and Yale Divinity School. She and her husband George have three children Sarah Gerritz, MD, Rev. Abigail Davis, Putnam Smith, M.Ed and seven grandchildren.

***Musical Note:** Dr. Valerie Capers was born in the Bronx and received her early schooling at the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School of Music, the first blind person to do so. For several years she served on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. She was also a member of the faculty in the Department of Music and Art at Bronx Community College of the City University of New York (CUNY) where she introduced several jazz courses to the music curriculum. From 1987 to 1995 she served as department chair, where she is now professor emerita.

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 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).

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.