



**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 8, 2026**

**Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles**

**Prelude** Andante Espressivo – Johann Krieger (1651-1735)

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

**\* Call to Worship**

One: Let the Mystery of God draw us in:

**Many: Beautiful, Just, Merciful!**

One: Let the Wisdom of God surprise us:

**Many: Vulnerable, Powerful, Searching!**

One: Let the Glory of God shine through our work:

**Many: Salty, Bright and Good!**

One: In the Mystery, the Wisdom, the Glory of God

**Many: Let us worship!**

**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** Rejoice, You Pure in Heart - #55, NCH

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Children's Message**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Anthem** Immortal, Invisible – Walter C. Smith (1824 – 1908), arr. Hal H. Hopson (1933 -)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Immortal, invisible, inaccessible, and silent as light.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes; most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise! Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high

soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree and wither and perish, but naught changes thee. Thou reignest in glory, thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all praise we would render, oh, help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee! Immortal, Invisible, inaccessible, and silent as light.

## **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** Come Thou Font of Every Blessing – Robert Robinson (1735-1790), arr. Linda Hartman  
Dr. Herman Weiss piano

#### **Scripture Reading Matthew 5:13-20 Mark Heslop**

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

## **Sermon “The Salt and the Light” Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** Standin’ in the Need of Prayer – spiritual, arr. Kathryn S. Shutz

Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, oh Lord – standin’ in the need of prayer. It’s me, it’s me, oh Lord – standin’ in the need of prayer. Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it’s me, oh Lord – standin’ in the need of prayer.

It’s me, it’s me, oh Lord – standin’ in the need of prayer. Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, oh Lord – standin’ in the need of prayer. It’s me, it’s me, oh Lord – standin’ in the need of prayer. I’m standin’ in the need of prayer, Hallelujah, it’s me, it’s me, oh Lord – standin’ in the need of prayer.

### **\* 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** Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life - #543 (verses 1 – 4), 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 Susan Parker and Marianne Round.**

**Our Greeters are Ann and Mark Heslop.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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.

## Hands on Community Service

**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.

### Items can be dropped at the Chapel or Church –

- **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.

### Compassion International – monthly sponsors needed for Chepkirwok

First Parish has sponsored him for 5 years. He lives in the Rift Valley of Kenya, northwest of Nairobi where malnutrition is a pervasive problem. He turns 12 June 21, 2026, his house has a dirt floor, mud walls and a tin roof. At the Compassion Center, he receives spiritual education, health screenings, immunizations, food, clean water, counseling, mentorship, life skills training and his family participates in gardening and nutrition classes.

There are 2 components to the commitment.

- 1) Dedicate a one-time payment of \$43.
- 2) write a letter to him during your month of sponsorship.

Months available May, July, Aug, Sept, Nov, Dec 2026. To sign up click [here](#), or speak to Sue Parker. Written instructions will be provided to guide you through the simple process. You can be the hands and feet of Jesus to make a substantial positive impact!

A graphic with a dark blue background. On the left, there are yellow decorative elements resembling the letters 'm' and 'n'. The text 'SAVE THE DATE' is in white, underlined. Below it, 'ANNUAL MEETING' is written in large, bold letters, with 'ANNUAL' in yellow and 'MEETING' in white. A yellow box contains the text 'FIRST PARISH CHURCH CONGREGETATIONAL' in blue. Below that, a calendar icon is next to the text 'FEBRUARY 15, 2026 FOLLOWING WORSHIP'. On the right, a smartphone frame shows a photograph of a white church with a tall steeple.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH  
CONGREGETATIONAL**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2026  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

Read the Annual Report online at [www.firstparishchurch.org](http://www.firstparishchurch.org)  
On the Home page *click on the annual meeting graphic to view*

A pink background with a decorative border of red and pink hearts and ribbons at the bottom. The text is centered and reads: 'First Parish Church', 'VALENTINE'S PARTY' in large red letters, 'Thursday, February 12th 6-8 pm', and 'in the Greenleaf Room (3 Chapel Ln)'. A decorative line with a diamond shape in the center separates the date from the invitation text. The invitation text says: 'All ages are invited to drop in to make Valentines for a loved one and for the Council on Aging. We'll provide the materials and refreshments.'

First Parish Church

**VALENTINE'S PARTY**

**Thursday, February 12th 6-8 pm**  
**in the Greenleaf Room (3 Chapel Ln)**

—♦—

All ages are invited to drop in to make Valentines for a loved one and for the Council on Aging. We'll provide the materials and refreshments.