



***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  
March 22, 2026**

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

**Prelude** Andante Religioso – Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

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

**\* Call to Worship**

One: Compassionate God,  
the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you.

**Many: One breath from you and we are rescued and made whole.**

One: Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit,  
that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom.

**Many: Restore and renew us, O God. Our hope is alive in you.**

**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** Let Justice Flow Like Streams - #588, NCH

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

**Gracious God, we can hardly believe that you have given us life and salvation as a free gift in Jesus Christ! We confess that we continually try to carry the burden of sin and salvation on our own shoulders, rather than trusting your forgiveness and seeking new life in your Spirit. Help us place our trust in you, and to accept the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Anthem** The Gift of Love – arr. Hal H. Hopson (1933)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and  
have not love my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be

giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come spirit come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole, O come, spirit, come let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship, and are freed. Amen

## **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** In the Mornin' – Spiritual, arr. Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

In the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin' when I rise, give me Jesus! Give me Jesus, give me Jesus; you can have all the world, but give me Jesus! 'Twixt the cradle and the grave, 'twixt the cradle and the grave, 'twixt the cradle and the grave, give me Jesus! Give me Jesus, give me Jesus; you can have all the world, but give me Jesus!

#### **Scripture Reading Paul Clark John 11:1-45**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, <sup>4</sup> "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>5</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>6</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>7</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>8</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>9</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>11</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>12</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>13</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>14</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>15</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>16</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that

you may believe. But let us go to him.”<sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

## **Sermon “Lazarus, Come Out!” Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

#### **Offertory Anthem Be Blessed - Kurt Carr, arr. Keith Hampton**

Be blessed my brother, be blessed my sister, be blessed wherever this life leads you. Let me encourage you, let me speak life to you. You can depend on God to see you through. You can depend on me to pray for you. You might be hurting, you might be crying, you might be worrying and frustrated too. Let me encourage you. Let me speak life to you. You can depend on God to see you through. You can depend on me to pray for you. Pray, I'm gonna keep on praying. Pray, I'm gonna keep on praying for you. Pray, I'm gonna keep on praying. Pray, I'm gonna keep on praying for you. You can depend on God to see you through. You can depend on me to pray for you. I see you in the future, and you look better. I see you walking in favor and prosperity too. Let me encourage you, let me speak life to you. You can depend on God to see you through. You can depend on me to pray for you. (Refrain, 6 times): I pray for you, you pray for me, and watch God change things.

#### **\* 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 O God, How We Have Wandered – #202, NCH**

#### **\* Blessing**

#### **Closing Song God Be with You – Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)**

God be with you 'till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you, with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'till we meet again.

\* Indicates the congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit

**Our Deacons are Liz Loomis and Marianne Round.**

**Our Greeters are Wendy and Paul Clark.**

## **Join us, following worship, for coffee and conversation**

We will gather today, after worship for Soup and Conversation to discuss the Lenten Study book together. *Falling Upward* is an invitation to living the gospel and a call to ongoing transformation. Most of us tend to think of the second half of life in chronological terms, but this book proposes a different paradigm. Spiritual maturity is found "when we begin to pay attention and seek integrity" through a shift from our "outer task" to the "inner task." What looks like falling down can be experienced falling upward—and is not necessarily connected with aging. This new edition focuses on practical guidance that you can use to live a life of love and meaning in a world of suffering and challenge.

**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, **\*note the change in April - April 9 & 23, 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.

**Book Group Upcoming March 30**, 6:30 PM we gather to discuss “The Glassmaker” by Tracy Chevalier at Mary Ellen Cook’s home, 23 Harold St MBTS. RSVP to Mary Ellen at 978-500-0018 or [cook.maryellen7@gmail.com](mailto:cook.maryellen7@gmail.com) for planning purposes. 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

- **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.

**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.



PALM SUNDAY  
MARCH 29 - 10AM



MAUNDY THURSDAY  
APRIL 2 - 7PM



GOOD FRIDAY  
APRIL 3 - 12PM



EASTER SUNDAY  
APRIL 5  
  
SUNRISE SERVICE  
SINGING BEACH 6:18AM  
  
FAMILY WORSHIP 10AM

