

**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, Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026**

Children's Art Display: The lessons during this Lenten season have illustrated for the children how choosing to follow Jesus gives people the superpowers of love, compassion, empathy and truth. The replicas of each of us welcoming Jesus show how ready we are to use these powers with courage and commitment. Hosanna! Save us so we can save others!

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Passion Chorale - Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612), arr. J. S. Bach

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: We raise our voices and wave with joyful hope
The palms of deliverance of God's people.

Many: Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!

One: Our hearts are filled with expectation
As we welcome the coming king.

Many: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: We receive into the crowded streets of our lives
The one who is Savior, not only of us, but of all the earth.

Many: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

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** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna - #213, NCH

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

All: Come, O Holy One.

Come through the streets. Come into the house.

Come to find a space beside us.

Come to challenge our answers about

Why tragedy comes, why poverty increases

Why we are afraid.

**Come, O Holy One. Speak to us in the silence
With wisdom greater than ours
With love deeper than ours
With change wider than ours.
Come, O Holy One.
Fill us with your wisdom, your love and your change.
Here and now. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem The Crown of Roses - P. I. Tchaikovsky/A. N. Pleshcheyev
When Jesus Christ was yet a child He had a garden small and wild,
wherein He cherished roses fair and wove them into garlands there. Now
once, as summertime drew nigh, there came a troop of children by, and
seeing roses on the tree, with shouts they plucked them merrily. 'Do you
bind roses in your hair?' they cried, in scorn, to Jesus there. The boy said
humbly: 'Take, I pray, all but the naked thorns away.' Then of the thorns
they made a crown, and with rough fingers pressed it down, 'till on His
forehead fair and young, red drops of blood like roses sprung.

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 Erbarme Dich (from 'St. Matthew Passion') – J.S. Bach (1685-
1750) (sung in German)

Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Margerita Varga-Nadj, violin

English translation: Have mercy, my God, for the sake of my tears! See
here, before you heart and eyes weep bitterly. Have mercy, my God.

Scripture Reading Matthew 21:1-11 Heather Reid

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the
Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the
village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt
with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you,
just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them

immediately.”⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Sermon “How to Make an Entrance” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem The Storm is Passing Over – Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933), arr. Barbara W. Baker

Have courage my soul and let us journey on. Though the night is dark and I am far from home. Thanks be to God – the morning light appears! The storm is passing over – Hallelu. Hallelujah, the storm is passing over!

*** 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 All Glory, Laud, and Honor, #216, NCH

*** Blessing**

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, ***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 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.

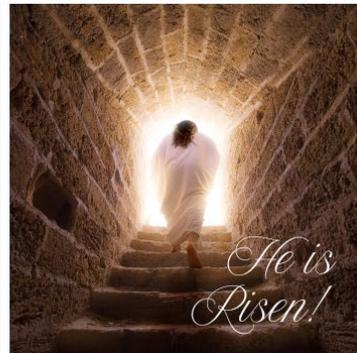
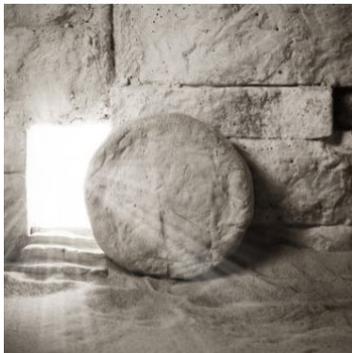
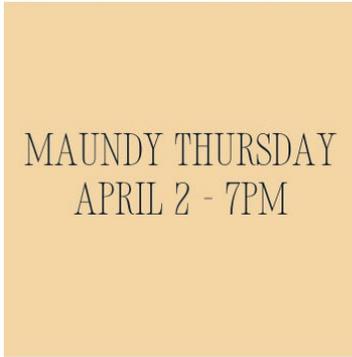
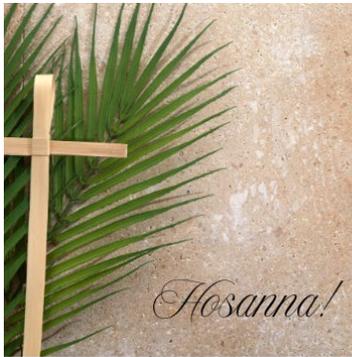
Hands on Community Service

- **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](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-54306850-open) or speak with Coordinator Jim Brennan 978-580- 9623.



The Palms

tr. Theodore T. Barker

Jean-Baptiste Faure

1. O'er all the way, green palms and blos - soms gay Are strewn this day
2. His word goes forth, and peo - ples by its might Once more re - gain
3. Sing and re - joice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem, Of all Thy songs

in fes - tal prep - a - ra - tion, Where Je - sus comes to wipe our tears a - way,
free - dom from de - grada - tion, Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right,
sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion. Through bound - less love, the Christ of Beth - le - hem

rall. *a tempo*

E'en now the throng to wel - come Him pre - pare,
While those in dark - ness find re - stored the light. Join all and sing, His name declare,
Brings forth the hope to Thee for - ev - er - more.

Let ev - ry voice re - sound with ac - cla - ma - tion. Ho - san - na! Praised be the Lord!

slargando

Bless Him who com - eth to bring us sal - va - tion!