



**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  
April 26, 2026**

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

**Prelude** Gnossienne # 1 – Eric Satie (1866-1925)

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

**\* Call to Worship**

One: Come, and praise God!  
In the company of God's people,  
let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Many: Great are the works of God,  
full of glory and majesty.**

One: Our God is gracious and compassionate;

**Many: Our God is merciful and forgiving**

One: Our God is faithful and trustworthy,

**Many: Our God is just and good.**

One: So come, let's worship God together.

**Many: God's praise will last forever!**

**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.*

**\*Hymn** Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us - #327, Pilgrim Hymnal

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Anthem** A Repeating Alleluia – Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

**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** I'll Fly Away – Albert E. Brumley (1905-1977), arr. Joel Rainey  
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away. To my home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away. O I'll fly away, O glory! I'll fly away. When I die, hallelujah by and by, in the sweet by and by. I'll fly away. Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away, to a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away. I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away. When I die, hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away. 'Cause I've got a home in gloryland that outshines the sun. Yes, I've got a home in gloryland that outshines the sun. I've got a home in gloryland that outshines the sun way beyond the blue. O I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away. When I die hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away. O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies, O they tell me of a home far away; O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise, O they tell me of an unclouded day. O the land of cloudless day, O the land of an unclouded day; O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise, O they tell me of an unclouded day. When the roll is called up yonder, when the roll call is called up yonder, when the roll call is called up yonder, when the roll call is called up yonder I'll be there! And there are just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away. To a land where joys shall never end, I'll fly away. O I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away, by and by, to glory, when I die, hallelujah by and by, by and by, O glory, I'll fly away. I'll fly away.

### **Scripture Reading Romans 1:1-17**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. <sup>9</sup> For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without

ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, <sup>10</sup> asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup> For I long to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened— <sup>12</sup> or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. <sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you, as I have among the rest of the gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am obligated both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish, <sup>15</sup> hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

## **Sermon "That the Way May Be Opened" Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** Built on a Rock the Church Shall Stand – Dale Wood (1934 – 2003)

Built on a Rock the Church shall stand, even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, bells still are chiming and calling.

### **\* 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 Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! - #257, 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 Nancy Peterson and John Feuerbach.**

**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**

**Save the Date! Spring Trail Cleanup with Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust**

Saturday, May 2nd (rain date May 9th)

Join the Outreach and Service team for an all-ages hands-on service project. Let's do our part to care for the earth and ensure that everyone has a chance to enjoy the gifts of creation.

You can contribute to the good work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge by Venmo to @FirstParish-Church (Church cell phone 978-907-3781). You can also use [@PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester](https://www.paypal.com/payto?username=FPChurchManchester).

**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, 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, **May 7 & 21, 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** The March Book Group was well attended with 15. We had three new members discussing our book, *The Glassmaker*. Mary Ellen Cook was the host. Our April group will be at Carol Spence's home on Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 PM because of town meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. We will gather to discuss "The Chaperone" by Laura Moriarty at Carol Spence's home, 4 Overledge Road MBTS. RSVP to Carol at (240) 305-5520 or [cdspence@gmail.com](mailto:cdspence@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, (Except in April!) at 6:30 PM, and hosting is shared among members.

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# *Soup & Conversation: Widening the Welcome. Part II*

May 17, 2026 - After Worship

We will gather again to continue the conversation begun on March 22<sup>nd</sup> about welcome and the ways we invite others into our church.

Please sign up to bring a soup, salad or dessert.

<http://tiny.cc/soupmay17>

