



**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  
May 17, 2026**

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

**Prelude** Adagio Sostenuto (from “Moonlight” Sonata, op. 27 #2) – L.v. Beethoven (1770-1827)

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

**\* Call to Worship**

One: Here in this place, there are no outsiders,  
for all are welcome in God’s house.

**Many: Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,  
for love is the language of faith.**

One: Here in our lives, there are no divisions,  
for God dwells in each of us.

**Many: Let us worship in unity and love.**

**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** You Servants of God - #305, NCH

**Passing of the Peace**

**Anthem** Bless the Lord, O My Soul – Mikail M. Ippolitov-Ivanov (1859-1935)

Bless the Lord, O My Soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Bless the Lord, O My Soul, and all that is within me bless His Holy name.

He is full of compassion and mercy, long suffering and great in goodness.

He will not always be chiding nor keepeth He, His wrath forever.

Bless the Lord, O My Soul, and all that is within me bless His Holy name.

O blessed art Thou, O Lord.

**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** Sarabande – G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

## **Scripture Reading Romans 2:1-11 Gar Morse**

<sup>2</sup> Therefore you are without excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others, for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. <sup>2</sup> We know that God's judgment on those who do such things is in accordance with truth. <sup>3</sup> Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup> Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? <sup>5</sup> But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup> He will repay according to each one's deeds: <sup>7</sup> to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life, <sup>8</sup> while for those who are self-seeking and who obey not the truth but injustice, there will be wrath and fury. <sup>9</sup> There will be affliction and distress for everyone who does evil, both the Jew first and the Greek, <sup>10</sup> but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, both the Jew first and the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For God shows no partiality.

## **Sermon "Judgement" Rev. Katherine Schofield**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** Awake, My Soul, and Sing – Allen Pote (1945 – 2010)

text: based on Psalms 71 & 108

Awake, my soul, and sing; arise and sing a psalm. For great are you, Lord, and great Your love; Your kindness is forever. You have been my hope, my confidence since my youth. I will proclaim Your marvelous deeds. I will ever sing praises. Even when I am growing old, do not forsake me, O God. I will declare Your strength and power to the next generation, to all who are to come. Awake, my soul, and sing. Arise and sing a psalm. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, your glory over all the earth. You have been my

rock, my fortress, and my shield. I will ever praise Your name, for you are my God. Awake, my soul, and sing. Arise and sing a psalm. Great are You, Lord, and great Your love. You are my God! Awake, my soul, awake, my soul, and sing!

**\* 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 Hail the Power of Jesus' Name – 304, NCH**

**\* Blessing**

**Closing Song** Total Praise – Richard Smallwood (1948-2025) – text based on Psalm 121

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you. Your peace You give me in time of the storm. You are the source of my strength. You are the strength of my life. I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen

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

**Our Deacons are Paul Gudonis and Susan Parker.**

**Our Greeters are Jody and Gar Morse.**

**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**

**Join us for Soup & Conversation** following worship today at the FPC Community Hall. We will begin by focusing on how we at FPC already welcome people -- from the narthex and public outreach to couples wanting to get married or baptize their children in our church. The second part of the conversation will explore how to expand that welcome to include LGBTQ+ and other communities.

**Church Directory, Spring** Available at the Church and in the Church Office. Are you missing from this Directory?  
Do we have your information correct?  
Do we have your birthday?  
Do you have a current picture that we can include?  
Email [office.fpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com) so we can update your info!

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/merchot/?cgi-bin=olp-webx-merchant&merchantid=123456789).



**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!

**Readers and Greeters** are always needed. To volunteer speak to the Deacons, or you can also sign up online. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-diaconate>

**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 Have you considered joining us?**

Our **May 25th** meeting will be at Lauren Gudonis' home, 56 Masconomo St. MBTS. We will gather to discuss "Finding Margaret Fuller" by Allison Pataki. RSVP to Lauren at 617-633-5333 or [lbgudonis@gmail.com](mailto:lbgudonis@gmail.com)

Our **June 29th** group will be at Mary Lumsden's home, 18 Woodcrest Rd, MBTS. We will gather to discuss "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption" by Bryan Stevenson. RSVP to Mary at (978) 500-4571 or [rasc84@hotmail.com](mailto:rasc84@hotmail.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.

### **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



### **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).

**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).

**Fair by the Sea during Festival by the Sea**, a chance for our church community to come together for a community event while having fun and

giving back to others! Saturday, August 1, 10- 2 during The Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce's Festival by the Sea. Our fair is a Community Yard Sale & more.

### **What can you do now?**

#### **Look around your home for the following items -**

Handbags          Accessories          Home décor, including all holidays  
Housewares      Art      Bric-a-brac      Linens

We begin accepting these items in July every Weds and Sunday. Please NO appliances, footwear, furniture, or stuffed toys.

#### **We are accepting these items now-**

**Jewelry!** Our famous Jewelry Table (that people line up before doors open to buy from) needs some replenishing. Do you have some jewelry you can donate?

**Items for our themed Auction Baskets**, as well as large, empty baskets. You can be creative in your basket theme or choose one of the following-

Basket ideas –

- Beach Reads
- Summer Fun
- Children's Books
- Summer Cook Out
- Summer Picnic
- Beach Fun
- Refresh Your Spirit
- Doggie Love
- Kitty Love
- What's your idea?

Closer to the date we will need help with set-up, clean-up, donations of baked goods, work the day of the Fair and more.

Proceeds from this year's Fair will go to -

- **Bambino Basket** Beverly - A non-profit program providing essential items for children in critical need. [bambinobasket.com](http://bambinobasket.com)
- **River House** Beverly - A haven for vulnerable women in need of assistance. Women who are unhoused face many challenges, including behavioral health issues, deep trauma, domestic violence, sex trafficking. The first female-only shelter on the North Shore. [lifebridgenorthshore.org/locations/river-house/](http://lifebridgenorthshore.org/locations/river-house/)

**Questions? See Bethany or Nancy K**

**ACTION INC.**  
**Helping People. Changing Lives.**

# **DONATION DRIVE**

**Through the month of May FPC will be collecting essential hygiene items for people experiencing poverty and homelessness. These items help protect health, restore dignity, and support mental well-being.**

**bug spray  
sunblock  
towels  
shampoo  
conditioner  
body wash  
toothpaste  
toothbrushes**



Donations can be dropped off in the Narthex or at the Church Office