



**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 31, 2026**

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Holy Spirit, Hear Us – Newman Powell (1919-2004)

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

*** Call to Worship** (Psalm 47)

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

Many: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

One: God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

Many: Sing praises to God, sing praises;

One: For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

Many: Sing praises to our King, sing praises. God is worthy to be praised.

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** Holy, Holy, Holy - #277, NCH

Prayer of Invocation

Passing of the Peace

Anthem When in Our Music God is Glorified – Charles Stanford (1852 – 1924), adapted from Fred Green

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong, born witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue: Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!

Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

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 Traumerei (from 'Scenes From Childhood') – Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture Reading John Feuerbach

The Book of Ruth, 1:1 - 1:16

Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. And Mahlon and Chilion died also, and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband. Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread. She went forth out of the place where she was, with her two daughters in law; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah. And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law: Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people. And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if

I should have a husband also tonight, and should also bear sons - Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? Would ye stay for them? Nay, my daughters; for it grieves me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me. And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her. And Naomi said: Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

I Corinthians, Chapter 13

Though I command languages both human and angelic -- if I speak without love, I am no more than a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. And though I have the power of prophecy, to penetrate all mysteries and knowledge, and though I have all the faith necessary to move mountains -- if I am without love, I am nothing. Though I should give away to the poor all that I possess, and even give up my body to be burned -- if I am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances - to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophecies, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will fall silent; and if knowledge, it will be done away with. For we know only imperfectly, and we prophesy imperfectly; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will be done away with. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and see things as a child does, and think like a child; but now that I have become an adult, I have finished with all childish ways. Now we see only reflections in a mirror, mere riddles, but then we shall be seeing face to face. Now I can know only imperfectly; but then I shall know just as fully as I am myself known. As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love, the three of them; and the greatest of them is love.

Message “The People You Meet” Dr. Herman Weiss

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem Hear Me, Redeemer – words and music by Henry Mollicone (1946-2022)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Hear me, Redeemer, send down your love to cleanse my soul. Lord of Lords, wash away my sinful ways, show me the power of your love! Lord of Lords, shine your light through all my days, show me the power of your love! Hear me Redeemer, send down your love to cleanse my soul. Mighty God, take my hand and lead the way, show me the power of your love! Mighty God, let me praise you every day, show me the power of your love!

*** 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 Great Is Your Faithfulness - #423, 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 Liz Loomis.

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, 978-526-7661 x 1

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 so we can update your info!

Today we honor the First Parish choir members, present and past. They have accumulated a long and stellar music making for our church.

Current members:

Soprano

Mary Ellen Cook, Marty Farmer, Maggie Michael, Rebecca Shrimpton*

Alto

Gail Gang, Lauren Gudonis, Penny Lapham, Betsy Nickless, Lelly Smith, Pam Spencer

Tenor

Simone Argento, Jim Brennan, Steve Gang, George Nickless

Bass

Adrian Argento, Mark Jackson, Paul Knox*, John Round, Jason Smith

Past Choir Members

Kyra Ahlin, Anne Allen, Burt Allen, Steve Armington, John Ashton, Laura Bailey, Rob Beatty, Meredith Browne, William Cain, Jr., Herman Calnek, Carol Christensen, Anna Crocker, Will Dame, Randy Diggle, Alice Eastland, Nate Elfinger, Laura Ells, Bob Evans, Melissa Glaister*, Carol Graham, Dick Greenleaf, Roger Greenslet, Leah Hamilton, Jack Hamor, Elda Harlow, Eleanor Harnden, Sue Harrington, Shirley Hatch-Ralston, Diane Houghton, Victor Ikpe*, Jan Ireton, Diana Jacklin, Robert Jermain, Carrie Kennison, Mary Kirby, Allison Leahy, Larry Love, Jack Meigs, Doris Milne, Alice Newman, Truth Nickerson, Bobbie Nickless, Ted Nickless, Mary Lou O'Brien, Ada Olson, Jen Powers, Mary Saunders, Rachel Sawyer, Jay Schlaiker, Robert Smallman, George Smith, Michael Spillane, Annette Sussie, Jeff Ward, John Warner, Bruce Warren, Theresa Weinheimer, Shirley Wilkinson

**denotes present or past soloist*

First Parish Music Directors

Dr. Herman Weiss (2019-present); Donald Dunn (1996-2019); Bernice (Baker) Lipsett (1934-1996)

Choir Director

Mrs. Samuel Crocker (1925-1939)

Adjunct Organist/Pianist Choir Director

Dr. Bonnie Anderson

For July we will take a summer break – no gathering. Please enjoy all your summer reading and bring back suggestions for the next year of readings for our group.

August 31, book group will be at Mary Lumsden's home, 18 Woodcrest Rd, MBTS. We will gather to discuss "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi. RSVP to Mary at (978) 500-4571 or rasc84@hotmail.com for planning purposes. Please bring some suggested new books for the upcoming year!

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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