



First Parish Church, Congregational
On the Village Green
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

Rev. John G. Hughes, II, Senior Pastor
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Vesper Service
March 12, 2014

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Light and Peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hill cannot be hid."

No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket,

**No! a lamp belongs on a stand
where it gives its light for everyone
in the house.**

And we, like that lamp, must shed light throughout humanity,

**So that, everyone may see the good we do,
and give glory to God in heaven.**

It is not ourselves we proclaim;

**We proclaim Christ Jesus and
ourselves as his servants,**

For Jesus said, "Out of darkness let light shine,"

**Jesus has caused a light to shine within us,
the light of revelation - -**

This revelation is the glory of God.

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for
surrounding us, as daylight fades,
with the brightness of the vesper light;
and we ask you to have mercy that,
as you enfold us with the radiance of this light,
that you will shine in our hearts the brightness
of the Holy Spirit; and touch us
through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 121

REFLECTION: *'beyond the peaks'*

THE LIGHTING OF VESPER CANDLES

[*"a rose amidst the thorns"*]

O GRACIOUS LIGHT (*Phos hilaron*)

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everlasting Father in Heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light;
We sing your praises, O God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised
by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified throughout all the worlds.

HYMN: *"Abide with Me"*

PH #209

POST SERVICE MUSIC

Psalm 121

***I lift up my eyes to the hills - -
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.***

***He will not let your foot slip - -
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, the God who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.***

***The Lord watches over you - -
the Lord is your shade at the right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.***

***The Lord will keep you from all harm - -
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over
your coming and going
both now and forever.***