



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

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Vesper Service

November 4, 2015

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight
as the incense,
And let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice.

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

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
Let the whole world stand in awe of You.

***Yours is the day, O God,
Yours is also the night;***

You have established the moon and sun.
You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth;
You have made the summer and the winter.

***I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
My heart will teach me night after night.***

I have set the Lord always before me;
because God is at my right hand,
I shall not fall.

***Seek him that made the Pleiades and Orion,
that turns deep-darkness into the morning,
and darkens the day into night;***

God calls for the waters of the sea,
and pours them out onto the face of the earth:
the Lord is his Name.

***If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me;
and the light around me turn to night,"
darkness is not dark to you, O Lord;
the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.***

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 146

REFLECTION: “*Blessed is...*”

THE LIGHTING OF VESPER CANDLES

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.

Benediction: *(in unison)*

***"Be now my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart - -
You, my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light."***

POST SERVICE MUSIC

Psalm 146

***Praise the Lord, O my soul.
I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God
as long as I live.***

***Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals who cannot save.
When their spirit departs,
they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.***

***Blessed is the one whose help comes from God,
whose hope is in the Lord of Creation,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea and everything in them - -
the Lord who remains faithful forever.***

***God upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.***

***The Lord sets prisoners free,
and gives sight to the blind,***

***Our God lifts up those who are bowed down,
and loves the righteous.***

***The Lord watches over the alien
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but frustrates the ways of the wicked.***

***The Lord reigns forever,
for all generations.***

So praise the Lord your God.