



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

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Vesper Service
September 23, 2015

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 54**

REFLECTION: *"let evil recoil"*

THE LIGHTING OF VESPER CANDLES

(be not afraid)

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: *(recited)*

***"Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens,
Lord with me abide; when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.***

***Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys
grow dim; its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I
see; O thou who changest not, abide with me."***

POST SERVICE MUSIC

Psalm 54

**Save me, O God, by your name;
vindicate me by your might.**

**Hear my prayer, O God;
listen to the words of mouth.**

**Strangers are attacking me;
ruthless men seek my life - -
men without regard for God.**

**Surely God is my help;
the Lord is the one who sustains me.**

**Let evil recoil on those who slander me;
in your faithfulness destroy them.**

**I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you;
I will praise your name, O Lord,
for it is good.**

**For he has delivered me from all my troubles,
and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.**