



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

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Vespers

March 9, 2016

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 32**

REFLECTION: *'sins covered'*

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.

HYMN: "Grant us thy peace, upon our homeward way;
With thee began, with thee shall end the day;
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon they name."

POST SERVICE MUSIC

Psalm 32

*Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

**While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.**

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Selah

**Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;**

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah**

**Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.**

**You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah**

**Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those
who trust in the Lord.**

**Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**