



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

Rev. John G. Hughes, II, Senior Pastor  
Donald R. Dunn, Director of Music-Organist  
Jessica Skidmore, Christian Ministry Coordinator  
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# MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

September 4, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

**ORGAN PRELUDE:** *“March” (from “The Musical Clocks”)*  
*Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

O God, you have searched us and known us.

**You know when we sit down;  
you know when we rise up.**

You discern our thoughts from far away.

**You search out a path for us;  
you are acquainted with all our ways.**

How weighty are your thoughts,  
how vast they are to us.

**\*HYMN:** *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”* NCH #224 black

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**We pray for those who are unemployed, underemployed, overemployed. We pray for those who cannot find it in their hearts to take vacations, too committed or too desperate, to know how enslaved they are. We pray for others, as well as for ourselves, when we are unable to ‘unplug’, to set ourselves free to restore our relationships and commitments. We pray for those who feel entrapped in a life of drudgery, overwhelmed by resentment, and lacking vision. We pray for those whose work is only the desire to pay off mortgages, bills that pile up, and who feel there is no way out.**

**We thank you, O God, for the sweetness of a holiday, a holy day, Labor Day, set aside for us to refresh. As we look to recommit ourselves to our daily activities and to restore those relationships dear to us, we pray for strength sufficient for our tasks. We ask that whatever work we do - whatever lives we live - that they may be**

**filled with a spirit of dedication that engrosses us completely and gives us meaning and purpose. This we ask, through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray ...**

**\*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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI:**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Jeremiah 18:1-11 pg. 1184

**MORNING PRAYER**

**CONGREGATION'S JOYS AND CONCERNS**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

May God bless us and keep us.

**May God's face shine upon us.**

May God's generosity be gracious.

**May God's kindness grant us peace. Amen.**

Let us offer our silent prayers ...

**SILENT PRAYER - PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 14:25-33 pg. 1623

**\*HYMN:** *"Be Now My Vision"* *NCH #451 black*

**SERMON:** *"Are You in the Best Shape Ever?"*

**MOMENT OF MEDITATION**

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

**OFFERTORY:** *"Gavotte" Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)*

## **\*DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*HYMN:**    *“Shall We Gather at the River”*                                *NCH #597 black*

## **BENEDICTION**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE:**    *“My Carnal Life I Will Lay Down”*  
                                  *Shaker Tune*  
                                  *Setting by Wilbur Held (b. 1914-2015)*

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The greeter and lay reader is Jessica Skidmore.

The Deacons are Wendy Smith and Lynda Griffith.

Readers and Greeters are always needed, talk to the Deacons.

Listening devices are available for those in need; they are at the back of the Sanctuary. Feel free to address a Deacon should you need help using them.

*After the service join us in the front of the church for hospitality.*

Welcome to all who are new to our worship. To join our mailing list fill out a “Welcome Card” to place in the collection plate or contact [office.fpchurch@verizon.net](mailto:office.fpchurch@verizon.net) , 978-526-7661 ext 1.



First Parish serves dinner at The Open Door

**Wednesday, September 21**

Prep & Servers needed: please contact Jim Brennan  
after worship or at 978-879-4595

*First Parish Church Congregational uses candid photos of church activities on its website and in its publicity from time to time. Any photos of children used will not contain personally identifiable information. Members of the community not wanting their photos depicted (or those of their children) should inform the church office.*

## **THE CARE TEAM MINISTRY, Have you shared the experience?**

We support FPC families with meals, rides, & visits through times of illness and loss. If you would like to become involved with this wonderful team contact;

Sheila Kafer 978-525-3253, [smkafer@comcast.net](mailto:smkafer@comcast.net)

Janet Groth at 978-526-8408, [janbythesea244@gmail.com](mailto:janbythesea244@gmail.com)

**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR** Please call Penny Lapham at 978-526-7128, by Monday to be included in the following Sunday's bulletin.



Begins again September 22!

Join the Seaside Parish Knitter we meet alternating Thursday afternoons in the Conference Room of the Chapel. 3-5 PM.

### **Sunday School Open House and Registration**

Join us as we kick off the year  
on **Sunday, September 18, 10:00 AM**  
@ the Chapel

Be sure to invite your friends!



**Save the date**  
**JAZZ SUNDAY**  
**September 25**



**October 3**, all are welcome to join us for a conversation on Congregational History with Margaret Bendroth.

Join us at the Chapel following worship.

Soups and salads needed! Contact Jessica at 978-526-7661 ext. 3 or [cedirector.fpchurch@verizon.net](mailto:cedirector.fpchurch@verizon.net).



The 300<sup>th</sup> Gathering Celebration on **Sunday, September 11** is around the corner:

1. Please RSVP to the Church office.
2. The event will take place at an outside estate on the ocean. Please dress accordingly.
3. Transportation will be by vans only, as there is no parking.

-Choir and Diaconate will leave behind Town Hall at 8:30 AM

-Other Church members please meet in the Chapel parking lot starting at 8:45 AM and stopping at 9:45 AM.

Please come early to be transported!

Raindate is September 18.

The 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary 2016 is a series of events celebrating our congregation. If you would like to make a donation in memory of someone or just because please just note "300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" as a memo, or it can be made by credit card. We will acknowledge donations in the September 11<sup>th</sup> bulletin. Thank you. The 300<sup>th</sup> Committee

At the sign of the rose, we're happy to announce that our new season of *Vespers* quiet time, prayerful meditation candle-lighting at the altar, and music, resumes this fall.

All are welcome. The Sanctuary opens at 6:30 for meditation & prayer; our service is from 7 – 7:30 pm, followed by ten minutes of music.



- Weds., Sept. 21 – Vespers:** *"empty plans" psalm 146*  
**Weds., Oct. 5 – Vespers:** *"as withering grass" psalm 37*  
**Weds., Oct. 19 – Vespers:** *"no slumber" psalm 121*  
**Weds., Nov. 2 – Vespers:** *"delights in people" psalm 149*  
**Weds., Nov. 16 – Vespers:** *"creation sings" psalm 98*  
**Weds., Nov. 30 – Vespers:** *"peace within" psalm 122*

On Weds. evenings when there is no Vesper program join us in our candlelit sanctuary for an **Hour of Tranquility, 6:30 PM**  
A place of tranquility to enjoy peaceful music and private meditation, all faiths are welcome to join in this space.

## **FAIR WORKSHOP, September 15 at 6:30 PM**

in the Chapel, everyone is welcome, no skills are necessary, just be prepared to have fun!

## **Christmas Fair- Saturday, November 19**

The Church Fair is looking for knitters, sewers, woodcutters, sand dollars, nice shells, small mussel shells, open pine cones, and ribbon. Drop at the Church or Chapel or Judy Drinkwater at 978-879-4879. Remember to save good White Elephant items, books, jewelry, knitting, sewing, canned goods and large baskets for the Silent Auction!



Will be moving to **Thursdays** this Fall, still led by Rev. John Hughes and at 4 PM.

It begins **September 8.**

Upcoming events can be found on our website ([www.firstparishchurch.org](http://www.firstparishchurch.org)) under “News” and “Calendar” and on our [Facebook page \(First Parish Manchester-by-the-Sea\)](#)

### **THIS WEEK:**

#### **Monday**

Labor Day Office Closed

#### **Wednesday**

10:00 AM COA Yoga

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

#### **Thursday**

10:00 AM Health Clinic

#### **Friday**

8:00 AM Yoga

#### **Sunday**

10:00 AM Worship at Gales Point