



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

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Vespers

September 21, 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 146**

REFLECTION: *'hallelujah'*

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: "Abide with me; fast falls the even-tide; the darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide; When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me."

POST SERVICE MUSIC

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord, O My Soul.

***I will praise the Lord of 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 are those whose help
is the God of Jacob,
who hope is in the Lord our God,
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 God sets prisoners free,
and lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord 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, your God,
O Zion, for all generations.***

Praise the Lord.