

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
Tori Potter, Sexton
Nancy Klebart, Office Manager
978-526-7661
office.fpchurch@verizon.net
www.firstparishchurch.org

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 18, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Sunday School Christmas Pageant

ORGAN PRELUDE: *“The Holy Boy” (A Carol of the Nativity)*
John Ireland (1879-1962)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jessica Skidmore

The church learned a long time ago that people need to get ready to come close to a mystery like Christmas.

During this time of Advent we are all on our way to Bethlehem.

Stop. Watch. Pay attention.

Something joyful is going to happen.

***HYMN:** *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

PH #120

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Pick Family

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION** (unison)

Jessica Skidmore

Dearest Lord, we thank you for Christ’s birth. Jesus came to live in our hearts, and his story calls us to become your humble servants in the world. We ask to feel your love in our hearts today, and to know the joy of living in your love. Then may we carry your joy into all the dark streets of the world.

***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.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1:20-23

Santana Tosi

MORNING PRAYER

Jessica Skidmore

***HYMN:** *“Away in a Manger”*

PH #137

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

“The First Christmas”

Featuring the children and youth of First Parish Church and
The Sunday School Choir led by Chip Price

“We wish you a Merry Christmas”

“Joy to the World!”

“Silent Night”

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *“What child is this?”*

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music: Thomas Hewitt Jones (b. 1984)

What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds worship and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him praise,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The Cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail! Hail the Word Made Flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh:
Come, peasant, king, to own Him!
The King of Kings salvation brings:
Let loving hearts enthrone Him!
Raise, raise the song on high!
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy! Joy! For Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

***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:** *“The First Nowell”*

NCH #139

BENEDICTION

Jen Powers

CHORAL RESPONSE

ORGAN POSTLUDE: *“Fanfare on Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* *Arranged by Robert A. Hobby (b.1962)*

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



I would also like to thank the following people: Annabel Smith, Sam Peterson and Chip Price for their musical talent, Middle School Youth for set up and clean-up of the stage. Atticus Smith for all his help and Allison Moir Smith for help with costumes!

Thank you to all the Sunday School Teachers!

Thank you to all of the parents who worked with their children, brought them to practice and found all of the parts of their costumes this morning - you are all amazing!

Jessica Skidmore, Christian Ministry Coordinator

The greeters and lay reader are the Sunday School children and Santana Tosi.

Lighting the Advent Candles are the Pick Family, Sue, Tilly, Charlotte and Ava.

The Deacons are Jane Pearson and Eleanor Harris.

The flowers are given in loving memory of our fathers, Dr. Joachim Kraft and Stewart Alsop, and of our friend, Dr. Sarah Williams, by Christiane and Joe Alsop.

The Poinsettia gracing our Sanctuary through the Christmas season is given by Doris Milne, in loving memory of her husband, Forrest, and their families.

Readers and Greeters are always needed, contact the office or 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.

“THE FIRST CHRISTMAS”
A Children’s Christmas Pageant
by Louise Egan (adapted)
(c) 1992 Louise Egan - All Rights Reserved
A One-Act Play
(Used with Permission)

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

NARRATOR	Marissa Mondello and Naomi Franklin
ANGELS	Sophie and Sydney Blodgett
PROPHET #1	Summer Demeo
PROPHET #2	Erika Kozynev
PROPHET #3	Ella Arntsen
TOWNSPERSON #1	Sammy Bothwell
TOWNSPERSON #2	Ethan Stefanovich
TOWNSPERSON #3	Matthew DeOreo
GABRIEL	Addie Goundrey
MARY	Sydney Bartlett
JOSEPH	Carson Croft
CAESAR AUGUSTUS	Jarrett Croft
ROMAN SOLDIER	Alastair Goundrey
INNKEEPER #1	Sammy Bothwell
INNKEEPER #2	Ethan Stefanovich
INNKEEPER #3	Matthew DeOreo
SHEPHERD #1	Charlie Latons
SHEPHERD #2	Ella Arntsen
WISE MAN #1	Jackson Bartlett
WISE MAN #2	Jarrett Croft
WISE MAN #3	Lily Stefanovich
STAR OF BETHLEHEM	Mia Stefanovich

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 , 978-526-7661 ext 1.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR Please call [Penny Lapham](mailto:Penny.Lapham@fpchurch.net) at 978-526-7128, by Monday to be included in the following Sunday's bulletin.

ONE NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM, Saturday Dec. 17

Meet at the Church for a caroling warm up and procession to Bethlehem at Sacred Heart. Activities for all ages.



There are so many new visitors to our church services. Vitality hopes to answer any of your questions. We will have a get together in the new year but feel free to call Mary Ellen 526-717, Allison 526-1904, or Jane 526-7137. Welcome to our church family.

MISSIONS - First Parish serves dinner at The Open Door, **Thursday, December 22**. Pies needed contact Jim (below or sign online)

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



MISSIONS - Brown Bag Lunches

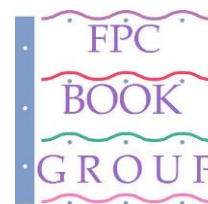
We will be making brown bag meals for Action Emergency Homeless Shelter, Friday, December 30. Can you help?

Needed: Donations of food, volunteers to make the sandwiches and a volunteer to deliver the meals to Gloucester.

Talk to Nancy Peterson or a member of Missions or [sign up online](#).

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.

Book Group continues with a new selection for December/January; “A Man Called Ove” by Fredrik Backman. *A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door. Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon, the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him the bitter neighbor from hell, but must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time?*” from goodreads



We are going to meet next on January 23rd @ 7 pm at 37 Beach St (the snow date is January 30th). All are welcome!



Christmas Eve Saturday, Dec. 24
5 p.m. family service 7 p.m. candlelight service
Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25
10 a.m. Christmas Worship

This Upcoming Week:

Tuesday

10:00 AM COA Zumba

Wednesday

10:00 AM COA Yoga

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

3:00 PM Seaside Knitters

4:00 PM Bible Study

5:00 PM Serve The Open Door

Friday

8:00 AM Yoga

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day

10:00 AM Worship

****Extended to Monday, December 19!***



You are invited to purchase a traditional Poinsettia, (6 & 1/2” plant with 3-6 flowers, \$15) to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas services.

Following the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Service, the plants may be taken home or left to be given to our homebound members and friends.

A complete list of donors and those remembered will be included in the Christmas bulletins.

If you [order online](#) please pay for your plant through [Paypal](#) (use email-office.fpchurch@verizon.net), or by payment in the offering plate, or mailed to the office (note: “poinsettia” on payment).

Thank you for making our sanctuary beautiful!

I (we) wish to donate a plant(s) *please circle one*:

In Memory of In Celebration of In Honor of

Name of Loved One(s):

Name of Donor(s):

Phone Number:

Please check: _____ I will take plant(s) home

_____ Please give my plant(s)

_____ A donation to the Diaconate Fund

Number of Poinsettia(s) desired: _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

Please return order form and payment to the church office

****Extended to Monday, December 19!***

Or order online [here](#)