



First Parish Church, Congregational

On the Village Green

Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt, Interim Pastor

Donald R. Dunn, Director of Music-Organist

Jessica Skidmore, Christian Ministry Coordinator

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VESPERS

Saturday, February 17, 2018 5:30 PM

Connecting to God in “the desert wilderness” of our lives

TEN MINUTES OF GATHERING MUSIC (starting at 5:20 PM)

from Songs of Taizé

Once the music starts to play, we invite you to be in silence

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from *Touch Holiness*)

Leader: Jesus said, “Follow me.”

People: We don’t always know what that means.

Leader: We are on a journey of discovery.

People: We are here because we want to be God’s people;

Leader: We are here because we are broken and want to be whole
again;

**People: We are here to connect more deeply with God’s healing
love.**

All: Let us worship God with hearts full of hope.

ONE MINUTE OF SILENT MEDITATION

MEDITATIVE READING: “For Solitude” by John O’Donohue

(from To Bless the Space Between Us)

May you recognize in your life the presence,
Power, and light of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone,
that your soul in its brightness and belonging
connects you intimately with the rhythm of the
universe.

May you have respect for your own individuality and
difference.

May you realize that the shape of your soul is
unique,
that you have a special destiny here,
that behind the facade of your life
there is something beautiful and eternal happening.

May you learn to see your self
with the same delight,
pride, and expectation
with which God sees you in every moment.

ONE MINUTE OF SILENT MEDITATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 1:9-15

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

ONE MINUTE OF SILENT MEDITATION

REFLECTION

Rev. Schmidt

LIGHTING OF VESPER CANDLES (10 minutes)

You are invited to come forward and light a candle(s) for people or situations you want to hold in the Light of God’s Love.

When you light the candle feel free to whisper the name of the person(s)/situation(s) for whom you are praying.

MUSIC DURING CANDLE-LIGHTING is from *Songs of Taizé*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Schmidt

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

If you wish, you are invited to remain in the sanctuary after the benediction and listen to the music, which will play for another ten minutes.

We invite you to leave the worship service in silence. However, Rev. Schmidt will stay in the church for a time in case you would like her to say a word of prayer with you following the service. Just let her know if you would like to pray.