

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
Tori Potter, Sexton
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EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

December 24, 2018 7:00 PM

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us...” (Isaiah 9:6)

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE: “*Greensleeves*”

Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP/ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Readers, Representatives of our “Choir” Family: Alice Eastland, Maggie Michaels, Bob Smallman, and Bruce Warren

The Christ Candle

READER: Tonight is the night for which we have been waiting. We relight each candle in our Advent Wreath, completing the circle. We re-light the first candle remembering that we wait for Christ. *[READER lights candle]*

READER: We re-light the second candle remembering that we must also prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. *[READER lights candle]*

READER: We re-light the third candle to remind us to bear witness to Christ’s Love. *[READER lights candle]*

READER: We re-light the fourth candle to remind us that we accept God’s love in all its forms. *[READER lights candle]*

READER: We now light the candle in the center, the Christ Candle, to remind us that Christ is the Light of the world. *[READER lights Candle]*

PEOPLE: Christ is the center of our lives.

READER: Tonight the Holy Light of God enters the dark of this world. Let us pray.

ALL: Dear God, tonight we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus. Let the power of Christ come into our hearts and lives that we may find peace with you forever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS CAROL: “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*” *PH #132 blue*

OPENING PRAYER: Unison

(from *Touch Holiness*)

O Holy God, we hear the story of shepherds and magi, of maiden and carpenter, of prophets and angels, and we too come to Bethlehem for a blessing. You are born in our hearts because you have chosen the weakness of our bodies for your birth. We are filled with love because you have taken upon yourself our humanity. We are filled with hope because you have offered us your Spirit, your life and your light. We are filled with faith because all that is meek and lowly and humble in us-- and in creation-- becomes holy on this night. Our salvation has come into this holy time, and we say together, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all!"

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

ANTHEM: *"Away in a Manger"*

Tune: Jonathan E. Spilman (1812-1896) and written in 1838

Arranged by Paul Sjolund (b. 1935)

Alice Miller, flute

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Anonymous; 19th century American

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Nancy Peterson

***CHRISTMAS CAROL:** *“What Child Us This”*

PH #140 blue

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *“Candlelight Carol”*
John Rutter (b. 1945)

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother,
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Angels are singing, the Christ child is born.

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour,
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger;
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day

***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.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-7

Paul Driscoll

CHRISTMAS CAROL: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* *PH #134 blue*

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:8-20

Nancy Peterson

***CHRISTMAS CAROL:** *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

STORY-SERMON: *“The Innkeeper”* written by Frederick Buechner

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Pastor

Rev. Schmidt

Hear these words from the Gospel:

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it!”

As our candles will soon shine
in the windows of our church building,
so may the church reflect Christ’s light
and love in the world.

After all the candles are lit we will stand and sing.

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

- 1) Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2) Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3) Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE: *“Swiss Noël, with Variations”*
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Thank you for worshipping with us this Christmas Eve! We hope this service enables you to enter into the heart of Christmas and joyfully celebrate the gift of God’s love in Jesus.

If you do not already have a church you call home, we invite you to join us again for worship, spiritual growth, fellowship, and service! Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m.

The greeters and lay readers are The Peterson/Driscoll Family, Paul, Nancy, Megan and Sam and Representatives of our “Choir” Family, Alice Eastland, Maggie Michaels, Bob Smallman, and Bruce Warren.

The Deacons are Susan Parker and Paul Gudonis.

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.



Brown Bag Lunch
[9-brown6](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-brown6)

MISSIONS

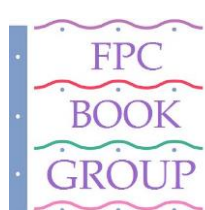
Brown Bag Lunch on Friday, December 28, sign up to help online

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f4](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-brown6)

SEASIDE PARISH KNITTERS Meeting 1st and 3rd Thursdays, (**January 3 and 17**) of the month 3 - 5 PM,

at the Chapel Conference Room. We all love to knit/crochet, but more importantly we have

been rewarded with helping others by sharing our handwork. We would love to have you join us!



BOOK GROUP Book group is open to everyone! This is a time for church members as well as non-church goes to come together and engage with one another, build relationships, and share in discussion of books that are of

interest to people of various backgrounds. We have fun visiting, discussing the book and sharing stories. Each month is a new host, who provides light snacks, beverages and dessert but only once a year!!!! The host then chooses the book for the next month. Next meeting, **Monday, January 28, 6:30 PM** at Marianne Round's home, 3 Greenbrier Rd., Manchester, the book for discussion will be “Alias Grace” by Margaret Atwood.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Thursdays, 4:00 to 5:30, at the home of Vin Terrill, 37 Beach Street. We will be studying the lectionary texts for the following Sunday's worship. Format of the study is as follows: we begin with sharing joys and concerns, we have a time of prayer (where people are free to pray silently or out loud), and then 2 volunteers read the text out loud, while we all notice which words the Spirit draws our attention to. (This way of reading Scripture is called "Lectio Divina.") We each have the opportunity to share with others the words "speak" to us, as well as ask questions about the text. We also discuss how the text might apply to our lives today. The study is led by Rev. Marlayna. All are welcome to join us! No prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary. Email or call Rev. Marlayna for more information.



SOUP & CONVERSATION Save the date, **January 6, 2019**, for a conversation about Jordan B. Peterson and a Psychological Approach to Scripture. While there are many approaches to understanding scripture, Canadian psychologist Jordan B. Peterson has recently received considerable attention for his lectures which look at scripture nontraditionally, from a psychologist's point of view. Simply summarized, Peterson posits that the Biblical stories can usefully be understood as a distillation of human wisdom garnered through millennia which address fundamental psychological questions which we face today, independently of one's religious beliefs. Join us as we share highlights of Peterson's lectures and their practical applications in our daily lives. Presented by Steve Carhart and Richard Smith. Soup and Conversation is a luncheon event with discussion led by guest speakers. Each event is open to all and we hope you can join us at the Chapel at 1 Chapel Lane Manchester, MA at 11:30 AM for this event. Sign up to bring soups, salad and more [here](#)
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-soup5>



Thank you to all who donated poinsettias to our Church for the Christmas season, if you donated a plant you may take your plant after this service.

In Celebration of:

Mara, Laney and Naomi!

Barry and Cynthia Franklin

In Loving Memory of:

Our Loved Ones

Kip and Jack Abbott

*Guy & Doris Willmonton, George Willmonton, Emily & Richard Greenleaf,
& Cynthia Greenleaf*

Annie and Dick Greenleaf and Family

Glenn J. Loucks

His Son, Glenn

Marilyn Bolton Perrin

Barry and Cynthia Franklin

Loved Ones

Liz Loomis

All Our Loved Ones

The Lumsden Family

Dorothy & Fred Nickless, Frances & Merrill Cameron

George and June Nickless

Robert Sanborn Parker

Muriel Parker

Robert Wilkinson & Robert Parker

Susan and Jeffrey Parker

Henrietta Taylor Burnett, Frederick & Lee Peterson, Robert, Gloria &

Marion Driscoll

Paul Driscoll and Nancy Peterson

Carole Schanley

Darvin Schanley and Family

Carl Nickerson

The Nickerson and Schmidt Families

Dr. & Mrs. Samuel & Lillian Schmidt

Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt and Rev. Paul Nickerson

Rosalie Woods

Bethany Woods