

## VESPERS

Saturday, March 16, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

The Second Weekend of Lent

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

from *Songs of Taize*

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

**WELCOME**

**Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP\***

READER: We lift up our eyes to the hills seeking help.

**PEOPLE: The God of mountains, the World-carver is our help.**

READER: God, our Path-maker, does not let us stumble into wrong ways.

**PEOPLE: God, our Watcher, does not sleep in times of trial.**

READER: God, our Father, shields us from scorching sun by day.

**PEOPLE: God, our Mother, sits by our bedsides in moonlight hours.**

READER: Strong God keeps us from evil, from doing and suffering evil.

**PEOPLE: Gentle God sustains our life day by ordinary day.**

READER: Holy God keeps our going out and our coming in--.

**PEOPLE: In this time of worship and all the days of our lives**

### **OPENING PRAYER\*:**

Holy One, be among us—

day and night,

hill and valley,

sure-path and stumbling.

Bless us that we may be blessers.

Guide us that we may venture forth with courage.

Keep us as we come in to worship

And as we go out to serve you in the world. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Genesis 12:1-4a

**Vin Terrill, Reader**

**The Call of Abram**

<sup>1</sup>Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him;

**ONE MINUTE OF SILENT MEDITATION**

**REPEAT READING** *(In the tradition of “Lectio Divina,” another reader will repeat the above psalm, so it can be heard in “a different voice.” As it is read, you are invited to listen for the words/phrases that the Spirit is calling your attention to.)*

**Jen Powers, Reader**

**ONE MINUTE OF SILENT MEDITATION**

**MEDITATIVE READING\*:** A Prayer of the Heart

**Vin Terrill, Reader**

You come in the night to me  
calling me out to be a  
blessing—telling me  
my family will be  
star-flung and  
shore-sand many.

You come in the night to me  
and change my name  
and ask me to go  
away from familiar,  
from home,  
to be a blessing for you,  
a word, a voice  
of God-stroking  
for strangers,

and other wanderers  
who find in me—  
a name and  
blessing.

## **ONE MINUTE OF SILENT MEDITATION**

**REPEAT READING** (*In the tradition of Lectio Divina, another reader will repeat the above poem, so it can be heard in “a different voice.” As it is read, you are invited to listen for the words/phrases that the Spirit is calling your attention to.*)

**Jen Powers, Reader**

## **MEDITATIVE READING\*:** A Prayer of the Heart

**Vin Terrill, Reader**

O God of pilgrims of all the ages, ...  
Praise you for being a God who ventures losing certainty  
in exchange for gaining trust.  
Bless you for meeting trust with steadfast love and mercy.  
Forgive me, when I doubt the wisdom of your restless heart.  
O God, who yourself became a pilgrim,  
lift up my eyes to see you in human form.  
Stir me to recognize you and believe that you journey still with me.  
Inspire me, Holy Spirit, to ask for your help in revealing  
that the pilgrim Christ walks on  
through me in all that I say and do  
when I express God's love.

## **ONE MINUTE OF SILENT MEDITATION**

**REPEAT READING** (*In the tradition of Lectio Divina, another reader will repeat the above poem, so it can be heard in “a different voice.” As it is read, you are invited to listen for the words/phrases that the Spirit is calling your attention to.*)

**Jen Powers, Reader**

## **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.*

## **BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Schmidt**

*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.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*\*This year our Lenten Vespers will be featuring the prayer/poems of Maren C. Tirabassi and Joan Jordan Grant, from their book, An Improbable Gift of Blessing. (Note: new and used copies can be purchased on the internet. If you have difficulty locating a copy and would like Rev. Marlayna to order one for you, please let her know.)*

First Parish Church, Congregational, United Church of Christ  
In Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

*Awaken to the Light and Love of God  
Be a Joyful Beacon to our World*

Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt, Interim 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@gmail.com](mailto:office.fpchurch@gmail.com)

[www.firstparishchurch.org](http://www.firstparishchurch.org)