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

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

Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea, Minister
Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music and Organist
First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
First Sunday After Christmas
Carol Sing & “Christmas Stories”
Sunday, December 26, 2021
10:00 am

Prelude  “Poeme Mystique”  Purvis
(It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

Welcome

Opening Litany

Leader:  Glory to God in the Highest!
All:  Good news has come for all God’s people.
Leader:  Jesus has come into the world;
All:  To show us the way to God’s hope, peace, joy and love;
Leader:  To show us the way to becoming all God created us to be;
All:  Individually and together.
Leader:  Glory to God in the Highest!
All:  For this greatest of all gifts.

Opening Carol  “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
(printed in bulletin)

Congregation Carol Selections

Prayer Intentions

Music Meditation  “Nocturne in B Major”  Chopin
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano
Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer with The Lord’s Prayer

We pray all this in the name of the One who has come - Jesus - the embodiment of Your Hope, Peace, Joy and Love sent to help us find our way to You. In gratitude for that greatest gift, we say together the words He would one day teach us…

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Congregation Carol Selections

(New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
29 “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Congregation Carol Selections

“Christmas Stories”
Closing Carol  "Joy to the World! the Lord is Come"
(printed in bulletin)

Blessing

Postlude  "Angels from the Realms of Glory"
Improvisation by Dr. Herman Weiss

Today, **Sunday, December 26**, our celebration of Christmas will continue with a Worship time featuring a **"Carol Sing"**! You will have the opportunity to request some of your **"Greatest Christmas Hits"**, which Dr. Weiss will lead us in singing at various points throughout the morning.

In addition, we will share your stories! In place of a Message from Mark, and as a follow up to his Message from December 12, you will be invited to share your stories in response to the following:

**“What is your most memorable Christmas and why?”**

OR

**“What was your most memorable moment from this Christmas and why?”**
CURRENT COVID PROTOCOLS CONTINUE

Please note our current Covid protocols for Sunday morning Worship.

The Council will continue to reassess these on a regular basis.

Sunday Morning Gathering Procedures:

• Attendees are expected to wear masks and distance if possible.

• Worship Leaders will not need to be masked.

• The congregation may participate in hymn singing and the Opening Prayer.

• In addition, we will continue with the following:
  
  o Contact info for attendees will still be taken in the event contact tracing becomes necessary.
  o Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex should you wish to use it.
  o There will continue to be no formal Offering for now, but attendees are invited to place any offering they wish as they leave Worship in a plate which will be placed at the back of the Sanctuary.

• At the same time, remember that “Virtual Worship” is also here to stay so that we can continue to be one in Worship wherever you may be on any Sunday.

• Click to read The Church Bell Newsletter of First Parish Church Congregational.
• “Deacon Fund” Support and Assistance – the “Deacon Fund” remains a vital means of assistance to FPC members in need, especially in this difficult and uncertain time. Contributions can be made “First Parish Church” with “Deacon Fund” in the memo section, and mailed to First Parish Church P.O. Box 187 Manchester, MA 01944.

• In addition, if a member of our spiritual community is need, please contact Rev. Mark to discuss available support.

• You can contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge @ PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester

• The Church Office will be closed from Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 through January 3rd. It will reopen on Tuesday, January 4th.

• Due to the Office being closed next week, the deadline for the January Church Bell Newsletter has been extended to January 2nd.

• Manchester Affordable Housing Trust Announces Emergency Rental Housing Payment Assistance - The Manchester Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT), in collaboration with Action, Inc., a Gloucester-based human and social services agency, is offering short-term rental and mortgage housing payment assistance to income eligible Manchester residents in response to job and income loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consistent with its mission to support and promote community affordable housing, the MAHT is reaching out to income eligible residents who are experiencing housing payment issues.

The MAHT can and wants to help during this difficult and uncertain time. For further information please contact Action, Inc. at 978-282-1000 or live chat at www.actioninc.org. http://www.actioninc.org.
• The Outreach and Service collection continues for The Open Door and Grace Center. Bring items to the Chapel or Church. There is a box outside by the Church Office at the Chapel:

Baking Mixes - Cake, Brownie, Cookie, Muffin, Pancake
Peanut Butter
Canned Tuna, Chicken, and Turkey
Healthy Snack Items
100% Juice/Juice Boxes
Breakfast Cereal
Hearty Soups
Canned Vegetables and Fruits
Spaghetti Sauce, Macaroni and Cheese
Rice, Noodles, Pasta

Gift Cards from local grocery markets so they can purchase butter, cream and other perishables.

• The Annual Fund Drive 2022 letters and pledge cards have been sent. If you didn't receive one, please call the Church Office 978-526-7661 ext. 1 or Mary Ellen Cook at 978-500-0018 to have another sent or use the one below.

Cards can be dropped in the offering plate, the mailbox outside the Church Office or mailed to P.O. Box 187 Manchester, MA 01944
Thank you to all who have so generously donated.
Book Group is open to everyone! Consider joining us. We are now meeting again in person on the last Monday of the month. Next meeting January 31, 6:30 PM. Location to be announced later. Questions can be directed to Mary Ellen Cook at 978-500-0018.

In January the book discussed will be “Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty” by Samantha Silva. The Manchester Library has copies but the book is very popular so Book Group members may want to put in a hold for it.

When eleven-year-old Cornelius Vanderbilt began to work on his father’s small boat ferrying supplies in New York Harbor at the beginning of the nineteenth century, no one could have imagined that one day he would, through ruthlessness, cunning, and a pathological desire for money, build two empires—one in shipping and another in railroads—that would make him the richest man in America. His staggering fortune was fought over by his heirs after his death in 1877, sowing familial discord that would never fully heal. Though his son Billy doubled the money left by “the Commodore,” subsequent generations competed to find new and ever more extraordinary ways of spending it.
By 2018, when the last Vanderbilt was forced out of The Breakers—the seventy-room summer estate in Newport, Rhode Island, that Cornelius’s grandson and namesake had built—the family would have been unrecognizable to the tycoon who started it all.

Now, the Commodore’s great-great-great-grandson Anderson Cooper, joins with historian Katherine Howe to explore the story of his legendary family and their outsized influence. Cooper and Howe breathe life into the ancestors who built the family’s empire, basked in the Commodore’s wealth, hosted lavish galas, and became synonymous with unfettered American capitalism and high society. Moving from the hardscrabble wharves of old Manhattan to the lavish drawing rooms of Gilded Age Fifth Avenue, from the ornate summer palaces of Newport to the courts of Europe, and all the way to modern-day New York, Cooper and Howe wryly recount the triumphs and tragedies of an American dynasty unlike any other.

Written with a unique insider’s viewpoint, this is a rollicking, quintessentially American history as remarkable as the family it so vividly captures.
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Seares, 1810-1876, alt.

CAROL C.M.D.

Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

1. It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
   From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold;
   Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all gracious King.
   The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,
   And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world;
   Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing,
   And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load Whose forms are bending low,
   Who toil along the climbing way, With painful steps and slow,
   Look now, for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing;
   O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing!

4. For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
   When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold;
   When peace shall o'er all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
   And the whole world send back the song Which now the angels sing. Amen.
Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

ANTIOCH C.M.

Arr. to Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains prove The glories of his righteousness,
Re-peat the sounding joy,
Re-peat, re-peat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the
And wonder-ders of his love,
And wonder-ders of his love.

And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing.

And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing.