



**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*

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 18, 2022
10:00 AM**

Prelude Angels from the Realms of Glory – Rolf Unkel (1912-1990)

Welcome by Deacon, Nancy Peterson

Call to Worship

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,

People: who proclaim peace,

Leader: who bring good tidings,

People: who proclaim salvation.

Leader: who say to Zion

People: Your God reigns!

Leader: Let the heavens be glad.

People: Let the earth rejoice;

Leader: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

All: Shout for joy, all the earth!

Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #116 vs. 1, 2, and 3

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Creating and sustaining God,
in your presence there is life.

Seeking the life that comes from you,
we have gathered before you.

Our hearts are ready, O God,
our hearts are ready.

Delight us with your presence,
and prepare us for your service in the world.

We pray in the name of Christ who rules with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle: Joy - Jan Marshall and Judy, Sheila Carrassi

Joy to the World (one verse)

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

Children's Moment (for young and young at heart) Jeanne Westcott (Children will leave for Sunday School following)

Anthem In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst (1874-1934), text: Christina Rossetti, arr. Robert Lau
Joe LaRocca, flute

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, hark, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago. Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign: In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed, and there the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but His mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved with a kiss. What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wiseman, I would do my part; yet what can I give Him, give my heart, give Him my heart.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer with 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call for the Offering

Music Meditation I Wonder As I Wander – John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die. For poor on'ry people like you and like I...I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all. But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing - a star in the sky or a bird on the wing or all of God's angels in heav'n to sing, He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die. For poor on'ry people like you and like I...I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture **Christiane Alsop**
(New Revised Standard Version)

Isaiah 7:2 – 16

² When the house of David heard that Aram had allied itself with Ephraim, the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

³ Then the LORD said to Isaiah, Go out to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller's Field, ⁴ and say to him, Take heed, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smouldering stumps of firebrands, because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. ⁵ Because Aram—with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah—has plotted evil against you, saying, ⁶ Let us go up against Judah and cut off Jerusalem and conquer it for ourselves and make the son of Tabeel king in it; ⁷ therefore thus says the Lord GOD:

It shall not stand,
and it shall not come to pass.

⁸ For the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is Rezin.

(Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered, no longer a people.)

⁹ The head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.

If you do not stand firm in faith,
you shall not stand at all.

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1: 18 – 25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sermon *What's in a Name* Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith

Anthem Canticle of the Turning (Magnificat) – Hal H. Hopson (1933), text:
Rory Cooney
Joe LaRocca, flute

Verse: My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the won'drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest – could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Verse: Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain:

Verse: From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain:

Verse: Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, 'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Refrain:

Hymn Lift Up Your Heads #117

Blessing

Closing Song God Be with You – Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)
God be with you 'till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'till we meet again.

Welcome to all who are new to our Worship time, we invite everyone to join us for “**Coffee Fellowship**” following the service.

Our Worship this morning is led by Rev. Dr. Llewellyn P. Smith, retired pastor of Mass. U.C.C. congregations in East Milton and West Gloucester. In the wider church, she taught Field Education at Yale Divinity School and Andover Newton Theological School and led the area Peer Pastoral Support Committee. Lelly has been active in our congregation, singing in the Choir, and chairing and serving on our Education, Nominating, Mission and Executive Committees.

She and her husband George have three children: Singer/Drama Educator, Putnam Smith, Dr. Sarah Gerritz and Rev. Abigail Smith. They have seven grandchildren aging from infant to graduate school.

Joining us this morning is guest musician Joe LaRocca, flute.

Joe LaRocca, a native of Chicago Illinois, is a dynamic multi-wind player highly skilled on flute, piccolo, clarinet, saxophone, recorder, bagpipes, pan flute, dizi, bansuri, ocarina, tin whistle, and electronic wind instruments, with symphonic, theatrical, and improvisatory experience. His diverse repertoire reaches far beyond the realm of standard western concert music, spanning from rock to baroque. Joe has extensively studied and performed multiple idioms of world music and modern American music to include jazz, R&B/ soul, Arabic classical, Latin Jazz, Brazilian, Venezuelan, Chinese, rock, Scottish highland, and Irish traditional music. He has studied under and performed with renowned musicians in these idioms to include; Marco Granados, Ruben Alvarez, Omar Al-musfi, Issam Rafea, Issa Boulos, Kinan Abou-afach, Jui-Ching Wang, Jiaqi Li, John McGann, Patrick Cannady, Ron Bowen, John Christopher Paris, Harry Skoler, Ryan Muncy, and others. He was former Reed 1 on the Jesus Christ Superstar 50th Anniversary National Tour performing on tenor sax, flute and clarinet. He is formerly principal flutist of the DuBois Orchestra, the Belmont Festival Orchestra, and section flute in Boston Chamber Symphony, as well as a regular sub for a number of orchestras around Massachusetts. Joe is currently on the advisory board of the Du Bois Orchestra, an organization in Cambridge, MA that is dedicated to elevating the works of underrepresented composers into the canon of classical music.

Our Deacon this morning is Nancy Peterson.

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.

Join us in welcoming Jesus! Christmas Services at 10 Central St. and streamed Live on our Facebook page.

Christmas Eve 5 PM Family Service with a rendition of *The Carolers*

Christmas Eve 7 PM Traditional Candlelight Service for all

Christmas Morning 10 AM

To join our mailing list, fill out a “Welcome Card” to place in the collection plate.

Save the date! Saturday morning, Jan. 7, a gathering to meet Rev. Kurt Herber, details coming soon.

The Church Bell Newsletter [click to read](#) the most recent edition.

Learn more about First Parish online:

Facebook www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/

Instagram www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/

Website www.firstparishchurch.org/

YouTube Worship Services

Thursday Spiritual Study Join in a lively discussion, Thursdays, 4 PM, on Zoom using The Daily Word as a resource. Questions or to join in contact Paul Lengieza 978-526-4765, lengiezap@hotmail.com.

First Parish Staff

Dr. Herman Weiss, Director of Music, hweiss05@comcast.net

Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children’s Ministry

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978-526-7661 ext. 1

Contribute to the work of First Parish Church by going to <http://www.PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester> and clicking the “send” button.

Readers and Greeters are always needed. To volunteer speak to the Deacons, or you can also sign up [online](#).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-diaconate>

First Parish is looking for help with streaming. Full training is provided! Not sure? Sign up to be an assistant to the volunteer who is streaming. We need your help to continue to provide online access to Worship services. Sign up [here](#) or contact Richard Smith at richard.w.smith@gmail.com.

Our Online Prayer Wall Give it a try! Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. Feel more connected to the Joys and Concerns of our congregation, and hear what's on each other's hearts. You will be touched to receive notifications every time someone prays for you. <https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>

Burgers and Bingo New Year's Eve party

Did you know that New Year's Eve is the loneliest holiday?

Vitality and Outreach & Service are teaming up to address this pain by hosting a fun, festive and light-hearted *Burgers and Bingo* New Year's Eve party in the Chapel on **Saturday, December 31 from 4 to 6 PM.**

The entire community is welcome to this FREE event (sponsored by the Laura Ells Fund). First Parish will provide rides for seniors (who can RSVP thru the Council on Aging -- drivers needed), as well as a Burger Bar and Sundae Bar, Bingo, a Fire Pit, and other festive games. Ending with, of course, Auld Lang Syne.

Volunteers needed for serving and enjoying.

Come with a joyful spirit! You'll be home nice and early, to boot!

Book Group News This is a time for church members as well as non-church friends to come together and engage with one another, build relationships, and share in a discussion of books that are of interest to people of various backgrounds. We have fun visiting, conversing about the book and sharing stories and would love to have you join us! Questions? Call Mary Ellen Cook 978-500-0018.

December 19, 6:00 PM Tomorrow Night, Book Group Christmas Gathering We will get together for a potluck dinner at Liz Loomis' home 34 Bennett St. Manchester. Bring a favorite dish and a wrapped used book for a book swap. Optional book read – ***“Small Things Like These”*** by Claire Keegan.

January 30 “*The Two-Family House*” by Lynda Cohen Loigman
location TBD.

Annual Fund Drive It is the time of year when the Stewardship Committee and the Board of Trustees work together to plan the upcoming year and the yearly budget. Our Church budget is dependent upon your pledges, thank you for your generosity!

You can also email your pledge to office.fpchurch@gmail.com

Please be sure to fulfill your pledge for 2022!

Health clinic the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month, 10:00 - noon at the Chapel building, by The Visiting Nurses Association. Services offered include health assessments, blood pressure screenings, B12 administration, pulse, heart and lung monitoring, blood sugar screenings for diabetics, medication and diet consults. Drop in, free.

Christmas Eve Family Service Help Needed! Ever wish you could be someone else for a minute? Here's your opportunity! Faith Formation needs 4 singers for the 5 pm service on Christmas Eve. You don't have to memorize any lines.

You'll have everything you need to just have fun! Please consider joining us in our rendition of *The Carolers*! A fun three scene play about joy, friendship, acceptance and worship. If you are interested, please contact Jeanne at jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com.

**The Outreach and Service collection continues for -
The Open Door and The Grace Center items needed**

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
Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Vegetables and Fruits
Macaroni and Cheese
Rice, Noodles, Pasta
Pet Food

Gift Cards from local grocery markets (Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Market Basket, etc.) so they can purchase butter, cream, and other perishables.

Troop items for December Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Creamer, Crackers

Our **FPCC Compassion child**, Chepkirwok needs supporters for 2023, [sign up now](#), questions can be directed to Sue Parker, sueparker33@aol.com.

Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee and Conversation

Starting September 12th and continuing every Monday 10 AM-12:30 PM (except holidays) at the First Parish Chapel Hall located behind Santander Bank. Hospitality provided by *The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging*. Come sit down and talk!

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday (Jan 5 & 19) of the month at the Chapel, from 1-5 pm. We welcome all to stop by anytime during that time. Over the years we have enjoyed our time knitting and crocheting items for baptismal events at the church, shawls and blankets for friends at home, scarves, neck gators, and helmet liners for our veterans in combat, and mittens and hats for Cape Ann children. We are always looking for knitting needles and yarn that you might be considering “casting” aside, especially wool. Contact Penny Lapham at 978-526-7128.

Upcoming Guest Worship Leaders

Today, December 18, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

December 24 7 PM and 25, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

December 24, 5 PM Jeanne Westcott, FPC Director of Youth and Children’s Ministry

January 1, 2023, Rev. Judy Brain

You Are Invited to Participate in the Stephen Ministry at First Parish

A number of members are organizing a Stephen Ministry at First Parish. The Stephen Ministry—named for Stephen, who in Acts 6 was appointed to assist members of the community suffering acute hardships—is a 50-year-old interdenominational Christian tradition.

The service trains lay members of the congregation in psychology and theology to be a Christian presence with any in the community suffering acute challenges. Typical examples would include bereavement, divorce, terminal illness, substance abuse, or mental illness. Fully details of the program are here: [Stephen Ministries](#)

A Stephen Minister’s objective is not to “solve” the challenge but rather to ensure that none feel alone in their struggles. (Jesus, after all, did not come to “fix” all of our challenges, but rather to be *with* us in our struggles.) At the same time, the Stephen Ministry in a congregation develops a network of specialized services suitable to assist individuals with particular problems.

For example, someone struggling with alcoholism would be introduced to a local AA group, while the Stephen Minister would continue to meet with that individual as a friend and witness. The team is currently working closely with the Outreach & Service Committee and the Care Team on this project. Two of us are planning to participate in the 25-hour live training program for team leaders offered by the Stephen Ministry headquarters. In the short term, as the leadership is trained and the program develops, our intention is to augment the work of the Care Team and develop our network of local services to which we can refer people for specialized support. Our tentative expectation is that during the current program year we will assist people within the congregation, with the goal of offering a fully trained and developed service to the broader local community in the following program year. Currently the group meets virtually at 5 pm the first and third Tuesdays of each month to develop the program. In person training and social events will follow!

There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability, so if you think you might be interested, please feel free to just attend and listen.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, call Linda Crosby at 978-314-1526 or Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.