



**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
First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 27, 2022
10:00 AM**

Prelude The Advent of Our King – Healy Willan (1880-1968)

Welcome Ann Heslop

Call to Worship

Leader: “The days are surely coming, says our God

People: when I will fulfill the promise:

Leader: I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;

People: and he shall execute justice and righteousness.”

Leader: Let us enter this season of preparation,

People: expecting to be changed as we worship and serve.

Leader: We will watch and ready ourselves

People: For the coming of One whom God sends.

Children will leave for Sunday School now.

Opening Hymn *We Hail You God's Anointed* #104

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Eternal God,

through long generations you prepared a way

for the coming of your Son,

and by your Spirit

you still bring light to illumine our paths

Renew us in faith and hope

that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts

and claim our love as our savior

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lighting the First Candle of Advent - Hope - The Heslop Family

Hymn *O, Little Town of Bethlehem* (one verse)

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in the dark street shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

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.

Anthem *A Winter Carol* - Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010), poem by Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow has left the heav'ns all coldly clear;
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow, and all the earth lies dead
and drear. And yet God's love is not withdrawn; His life within the keen air
breathes; His beauty paints the crimson dawn, and clothes the boughs with
glittering wreaths. And though abroad the sharp winds blow, and skies are
chill, and frosts are keen, Home closer draws her circle now, and warmer
glows her light within. O God! Who giv'st the winter's cold as well as
summer's joyous rays, Us warmly in Thy love enfold, and keep us through
life's wintry days.

Invitation to the Offering

Meditation - Recitative and Aria (from 'The Messiah', part 1) – G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heav'ns and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; I'll shake the heav'ns, the earth, the sea, the dry land, all nations, I'll shake, and the desire of all nations shall come.

The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple, ev'n the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire. Who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

Prayer of Dedication

The Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah 2:1-5 Mary Ellen Cook (New Revised Standard Version Translation)

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

The New Testament Romans 13:11-14 (New Revised Standard Version Translation)

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;

¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reflections on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #116

Scripture readings by Jeff and Sandy Bodmer-Turner

Prayer Poems by Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

Anthem And the Glory of the Lord (from 'The Messiah', part 1)

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Hymn *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* #122

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.

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 six grandchildren aging from infant to graduate school.

Our Deacon this morning is Ann Heslop.

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.

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

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

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

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

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>

Learn more about First Parish online:

Facebook www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/

Instagram www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/

Website www.firstparishchurch.org/

YouTube Worship Services

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

First Parish is looking for help with streaming our worship services. Can you volunteer? 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.

Saturday, December 10, 12 PM - 4 PM Winter Queen's Emporium

A holiday shopping opportunity for children ages 5 – 10. Children bring a list and \$1 per family members, to shop in our stocked emporium.

They will meet the Winter Queen, enjoy a treat, and wrap/tag their gifts to surprise their family! Pre-registration required sign children up [here](#)

Our New 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/>

First Parish will hold its first annual **Messiah Sing** in its Sanctuary on **December 11, 2022, at 7 PM**. Singers and listeners are welcome to join us in the glorious music of G. F. Handel. Featured will be soloists and orchestra, conducted by our Music Director, Dr. Herman Weiss. This event is open to the public and will be followed by a reception in the Chapel Hall. It also will be live streamed and recorded. A free will offering will be accepted at the door. You are encouraged to bring your musical scores. Additional scores will be available if needed.

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.

Tomorrow, Monday, November 28th we meet to discuss **“In the Woods”** by **Tana French** at Nancy Peterson’s home 111Chebacco Rd. South Hamilton. RSVP to Nancy at 508-284-0883.

December 19 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**.

It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church. Already an international bestseller, Small Things Like These is a deeply affecting story of hope, quiet heroism, and empathy from one of our most critically lauded and iconic writers. goodreads

January 20 “The Two- Family House” by **Lynda Cohen Loigman**
location TBD.

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.

**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 November

For Hospitals – Blankets, Pillows, T-shirts & Underwear

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.

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday (Dec 1) 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.

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!

Forming a Stephen Ministry at First Parish

Several 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 which trains lay members of the Congregation in psychology and theology to be a Christian presence with all in the community suffering acute challenges. Typical examples would include bereavement, divorce, terminal illness, substance abuse, or mental illness. Full details of the program are available by clicking [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, a 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.

We are currently working closely with the Outreach & Service Committee and the Care Team on this project. 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 specialized 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 full local community in the following program year. If you are interested in learning more about this project, call Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.

Upcoming Guest Worship Leaders

Today, November 27, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

December 4, 11, 18, 24 7 PM and 25, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

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

The Annual Fund Drive is ongoing, thank you for your generosity!

First Parish Church Annual Fund Drive 2023

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Total Pledge for 2023 _____

Thank you for your pledge

*Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so
much.*

Helen Keller



Please use the enclosed pre-stamped envelope to return your pledge or bring to Church on Pledge Sunday, November 20



You are invited to purchase a traditional **Poinsettia**, (6 & 1/2" plant with 3-6 flowers, \$15) to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas services. The Diaconate also offers the option of donating to *The Diaconate Fund* to assist people in our community, who are in need.

Following the Christmas Eve/Christmas service, the plant may be taken home or left to be given to our members and friends who are ill or unable to leave their home. A complete list of donors and those remembered will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

I (we) wish to donate a plant(s) *please circle one*:

In Memory of

In Celebration of

In Honor of

Name of Loved One(s)

Name of Donor(s)

Please check: _____ I will take plant(s) home
 _____ Please give my plant(s)
 _____ A donation to the Diaconate Fund

of Poinsettia(s) desired: _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

*Please return order form and payment to the church office,
drop in the offering plate or order online [here](#)
by Friday, December 16*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-poinsettias2>