



Lisa Greenleaf 2009

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**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
Christmas Eve Celebration
Saturday, December 24, 2022
7:00 PM**

Prelude Hark, the Herald Angels Sing – Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Greeting - Merry Christmas!

Call to Worship

Leader: Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace and goodwill toward all.

**People: For out of God's own being,
Jesus has come to bring love and light
to all people.**

Leader: Jesus is our Emmanuel - God With Us -
come to gather our tears and laughter,
our work and our play into God's love.

**All: Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace and goodwill toward all.**

Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful NCH #135

Opening Prayer

Most gracious God,
we come before you in awe,
freshly aware of your glory and your love
embodied in the midst of this world.
We have come together as your people,
called to be whole and free, forgiven, strengthened
and accepted as we are.
We dare to believe that it is you, God,
coming to be among us in Jesus,
and so we praise you with songs of joy.
Lift us up by the power of the Holy Spirit
and bless us with the love of Christ.
And on this night, this holiest of nights,
this sweet dark night, we take up the melody
of your saints and companions
through the ages of ages
and we praise you with songs of joy.

Glory be to you, O God, now and forever.
Amen.

Advent Wreath Candle Christ Candle - The Weaver Family

Hymn It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (one verse)

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 almighty king
The world in solemn silence lay to hear the angels sing.

Scripture Jason Smith

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness -
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness

from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Luke 2: 1-14

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Anthem Candlelight Carol – words and music by John Rutter (1945)

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How do you measure the love of a mother or how can you write down a baby's first cry? Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow, shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn. Silent night, holy night, all is calm and all is bright.

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. Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow,

shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn. Silent night, holy night, all is calm and all is bright. Angels are singing; the Christ child is born. 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. Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow, shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm and all is bright - angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

Hymn Angels, We Have Heard on High NCH #125

Pastoral Prayer

Call to Christmas Offering

Meditation Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming – arr. Christina Harmon

Dedication Prayer

Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem NCH #133

Sermon The Hopes and Fears of All the Years

Solo Gesu Bambino – Pietro Yon (1886-1943) (sung in Italian)
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

English translation: In the humble hut, in cold and poverty the holy infant is born, who the world will adore. Hosanna, hosanna, sing with a joyous heart, your shepherds and angels, O King of light and love. Come let us adore the Lord. O beautiful boy do not cry, Redeemer! Your mother cradles you, kisses you, oh Savior. Hosanna, hosanna, sing with a joyous heart, your shepherds and angels, oh King of light and love. Oh come let us adore the Lord!

Anthem Angels' Carol – words and music by John Rutter

Verse: Have you heard the sound of the angel voices ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear? Have you heard the star shining out so brightly as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here? Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven to the humble shepherds who have waited long?

Chorus: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

Verse: He is come in peace in the winter's stillness, like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night; He is come joy like the sun at morning, filling all the world with radiance and with light. He is come in love as the child of Mary; in a simple stable we have seen His birth:

Chorus: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing 'Peace on earth'.

Verse: He will bring new light in a world of darkness, like a bright star shining in the skies above; He will bring new hope to the waiting nations when He comes in purity and love. Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming; let the heavens answer with the joyful morn:

Chorus: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born'.

Hymn Joy to the World NCH #132

Prayer on Symbol of Light

Lighting of the Candles Silent Night, Holy Night

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.

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!

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.

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.

Postlude Ding Dong Merrily on High – French Carol, arr. Nigel Williams

Our Worship 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.

We thank our trumpeters Kevin Tracy and Emily Dunbar

The nativity scene on the altar is in celebration of Christmas Eve.

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.

Learn more about First Parish online:

Facebook www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/

Instagram www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/

Website www.firstparishchurch.org/

YouTube Worship Services

First Parish Staff

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

Jeanne Westcott, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com

Nancy Klebart, Office Manager, office.fpchurch@gmail.com

978-526-7661 ext. 1

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!

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias or to the Deacon Fund for the Christmas season. If you donated a plant, you are invited to take it with you after this celebration.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Vincent Terrill

Susan Martineau

Carole Schanley

Darvin Schanley and Family

Larry Larsen, Slim Proctor, Oleg Pohotsky and Carol Zoppel

Jolene and Kate Larsen

Loved ones from Christmas' past

Paul Driscoll and Nancy Peterson

Robert W. Graul Jr. and Edith Graul

Robert Graul

Robert Sanborn Parker

Muriel S. Parker

Larry & Margit Breakiron, Paul & Edith Gudonis

Lauren and Paul Gudonis

Shirley & Bob Wilkinson and Robert Parker

Sue and Jeff Parker

Nancy Jenkins and Lori Jenkins

Janis Holley

Pauline Bzdula & Ted Bzdula

Paula Bzdula

All my many loved ones

Jan Marshall

Bill & Lois Carhart, Randolph & Martha Farmer, and Jill Benke

Steve Carhart and Marty Farmer

IN CELEBRATION OF

All Our Loved Ones

Mary and David Lumsden

Family and Friends

Liz Loomis

IN HONOR OF

Our Grandson-to-be, Charlie Stephen

Steve Carhart and Marty Farmer