



**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 Christmas Celebration
Sunday, December 25, 2022
10:00 AM**

Prelude Away in a Manger – traditional, arr. Dave Brubeck (1920-2012)

Greeting

Merry Christmas Rev. Dr Llewellyn P. Smith

Call to Worship

Leader The Word was made flesh,

People Alleluia, Alleluia!

Leader and dwelt among us,

People Alleluia, Alleluia!

Leader Jesus, Son of the living God, Light eternal:

People Glory to you, O Lord!

Leader Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, mighty God,
everlasting Lord.

People Glory to you, O Lord!

Leader Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls,
perfect in holiness:

People Glory to you, O Lord!

Leader Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor,
treasure of the faithful:

People Glory to you, O Lord!

Leader Jesus, inexhaustible Wisdom, our Way,
our Truth and our Life.

**People Glory to you, O Lord,
this Christmas Day and forever more.**

Hymn Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #144

Opening Prayer

All glory to you, great God,
for the gift of your Son,
whom you sent to save us.
With singing angels,
let us praise your name,
and tell the earth his story,

that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down,
acknowledging your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Anthem Carol of the Star – T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953), arr. June Nixon

Verse: There came three kings who rode apace to Bethl'em town by God's good grace. Hail Earendel God love be with us. In sooth it was a duteous thing, wise men to worship childe King: God love be with us, Hail, Earendel. They gave Him gifts of farbrought thing, of Recells, Myrhh and Gold of Kings; Hail Earendel, brightest of angels, and setten there in strawy tent their mystic signs of Orient: God love be with us, Hail, Earendel. The Gold and Frankinsense and Myrhh for King for Priest for digne martyr, Hail Earendel, brightest of angels. On the great Good Friday morn is't crown of gold or crown of thorn? God love be with us, Hail, Earendel. O hymn then those Orient Kings, who brought for Him their offerings. Hail Earendel, brightest of angels, and grfant in holy mystery ourselves His sacrificed may be, God love be with us, Hail, Earendel.

Note: Earendel is an old English name, which translates to 'morning star'. Also, it is the name given to the character of Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings' who carries with him the 'Silmaril', or morning star.

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.

Music Meditation Christmas Medley – arr. Linda Hartman

Still, Still, Still, O Little Town of Bethlehem, I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

Scripture: John 1: 1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Background Stories on our Hymns

Joy to the World! #132

O Little Town of Bethlehem #133

It Came upon the Midnight Clear #131

Silent Night, Holy Night #134

Call for the Offering

Solo Wasn't That a Mighty Day? – spiritual, arr. Herman Weiss
Rebecca Shrimpton, solo

Wasn't that a mighty day? Oh, Halleluh, Halleluh!
Wasn't that a mighty day, when the baby Jesus Christ was born!
When Jesus was a tiny baby, slumberin' on Mary's arm;
Lyin' in the stable of Bethlehem with the angels there to keep him from harm.

Shepherds came to kneel before Him, sleepin' on His bed of hay;
Bowin' low before the tiny child in the stable where the Christ child lay.

Wasn't that a mighty day? Halleluh! Oh, halleluh!

What a mighty day, when the baby Jesus Christ was born.

Wasn't that a mighty day, wasn't that a mighty day,

Wasn't that a mighty fine day?!

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High #125

Blessing

Closing Song Lo, How a Rose – Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

From Jessie's stock upbringing, on tender root has grown: arose by prophet's singing to all the world made known. The rose 'midst winter's cold, a lovely blossom bearing, in former days foretold. This rose then of my story Isaiah did proclaim. What God ordain'd in glory, by blessed Mary came. The child the Virgin bore, the world's salvation bringing through Him evermore.

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.

Our Deacon this morning is Sue Parker.

The nativity scene on the altar is in celebration and joy of the Christ Child's birth.

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.

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

Saturday, Jan. 7 Save the date! A gathering to meet Rev. Kurt Herber. An informal "Koffee with Kurt" gathering is planned from 10 - noon in the Chapel Hall. Rev. Herber will make a few remarks and respond to questions. Please plan to come by and greet Rev. Herber with our trademark FPCC hospitality.

***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!

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 office.fpchurch@gmail.com.

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

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/>

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

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.

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.

**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

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 25, Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Smith

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.

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.