



**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 Impromptu Pageant
December 24, 2024, 5:00 PM**

GATHERING SONGS

WELCOME

CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest.
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Jeanne Westcott

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS SETTING THE SCENE

CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

SCENE 1: JOSEPH, MARY, AND THE BABY JESUS

CAROL Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SCENE 2: SHEPHERDS, SHEEP, AND ANGELS

CAROL Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SCENE 3: TELLING THE GOOD NEWS

CAROL Joy to the World
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.

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

SCENE 4: THE MAGI COME BEARING GIFTS

OFFERING

CAROL We Three Kings

We three kings of orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar;
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain; gold I bring, to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
(refrain)

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a deity nigh,
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship him, God most high.
(refrain)

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.
(refrain)

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies!
(refrain)

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

PASSING THE LIGHT

CAROL 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, Child of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
Bring the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

BLESSING

Special Thanks to: The Holy Family - Gianinna, James and Serena Bothwick, The Wise Men - Mary Lumsden, David Lumsden, Jeff Bodmer-Turner, The Star - Eliot Schofield, and our volunteers Jane Pearson, MaryJo Feuerbach, Jeanne Knox.

Our Deacons are John Feuerbach and Paul Gudonis.

Welcome to all who are new to our Worship time. To join our mailing list please fill out a "Welcome Card" to place in the collection plate or contact office.fpchurch@gmail.com, 978-526-7661 x 1.

Listening devices are available for those in need; they are at the back of the Sanctuary. Feel free to ask a Deacon should you need help.

Interested in holding a wedding, memorial service or baptism at First Parish? Contact the office at 978-526-7661 ext. 1, office.fpchurch@gmail.com or Rev. Katherine at revkatherine.fpchurch@gmail.com for more information.

First Parish uses candid photos of Church activities in its publicity from time to time. Any photos of children used will not contain personally identifiable information. Members of the community not wanting their or their children's photos depicted should inform the Church Office.

Faith Formation Opportunities for All Ages Through study and prayer and service, we aspire to love God “with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.” From the youngest toddlers, to the wisest Elders, we each are called to grow in our faith and understanding.

Sunday school meets weekly during the school year and begins in worship.

Youth group meets twice a month. Contact Jeanne for details,

jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com.

Weekly Bible Study – Meets on Tuesdays, 3:30-4:45p via Zoom. We study scripture together, utilizing resources from a variety of traditions, and seeking meaning for our daily lives.

First Parish Stephen Ministers are highly trained lay volunteers who stand ready to provide confidential, one on one presence and counsel for anyone facing a life challenge such as divorce, job loss, major illness, or bereavement, under the direction of our Minister. This service also provides referrals to local agencies which can provide tangible assistance for needs such as housing, energy, or medical care. This program is part of the national interdenominational Christian movement described here: stephenministries.org. If you or anyone you know might benefit from this service, please contact Rev. Katherine or Stephen Leaders Linda Crosby (978-314-1526) and Steve Carhart (978-407-8454).

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm, January 2 and 16. 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.

Use the links below to learn more about First Parish Church online:

Facebook www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/

Instagram www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/

Our Online Prayer Wall Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website <https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>



Thank you to all who donated poinsettias or donated 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

Larry L. Larsen

Jolene and Kate Larsen

Dorothy Kelly

Andrea Kunst

Gert and Gene Turner

Sandra and Jeffrey Bodmer-Turner

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bodmer

Jeffrey and Sandra Bodmer-Turner

Johanna "Hannie" Boele Eschauzier and Susan E. Madigan

Peter G. Eschauzier

Pauline and Ted Bzdula

Paula Bzdula

Ernie Dorn and David Loomis

Molly Tyson and Liz Loomis

Wayne Marshall

Jan Marshall

Robert, Gloria & Marion Driscoll, Violet Tracey, Kathleen Colleran, Frederick & Lee Peterson, and Henrietta Burnett

Paul Driscoll and Nancy Peterson

Bob & Shirley Wilkinson and Bob & Muriel Parker

Sue and Jeff Parker

Wife and mother, June Nickless

George and Betsy Nickless

Muriel Parker

Brian and Rosy Parker

IN CELEBRATION OF

Grace and George Neilson

Jan Eschauzier and Jody Morse

My children

Nancy Klebart

IN HONOR OF

All our Loved Ones

Mary and David Lumsden

Donations to the Deacon Fund \$205

CHURCH SCHOOL

Families start Sunday in worship until 10:15a when children depart to Church School (Except 1st Sundays - when children stay in church for All-Ages Family Worship) Our kids engage in hands-on, age-appropriate learning opportunities that integrate storytelling, the arts and spiritual development in a safe and family-friendly environment.



At First Parish Church, we value kids of all ages and encourage families of all configurations to join in our Christian worship, activities and spiritual experiences. The staff and volunteers at First Parish Church are committed to respect, safety and the strengthening of relationships encompassed in God's Love and illuminating Christ's life and work. For more info contact jeanne.fpchurch@gmail.com.



YOUTH GROUP

Gathers monthly for service projects, arts and crafts, and social events.

BURGERS & BINGO

*Celebrate New Year's Eve with food,
fun, excitement, and fantastic prizes!*

FPC Community Hall

DECEMBER 31ST

→  **4 - 6 PM**

**All are welcome.
A free and fun
family event!**

WWW.FIRSTPARISHCHURCH.ORG

