



**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 Communion Sunday
December 1, 2024
10:00 am

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

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

Please maintain a prayerful quiet during the prelude as we prepare our hearts for worship.

*** Call to Worship and Advent Wreath Lighting The Parker Family**

One: This is the day we begin our journey to the Child, His Mother and the manger.

Many: May we kindle God's light together as we journey on.

One: We journey because we are drawn to God's light;

It is God's promise, borne into our lives.

We light this candle in HOPE. (The candle is lit.)

Many: God of darkness and light, God of hope and fear

Help us take one step closer to you.

**In this candlelight, show us that the power of hope
can overcome our doubts and fears.**

One: Take this light, small but mighty, and magnify it within us
until our hope chases away all shadows of hatred and fear.

All: Be not afraid, the light of God's hope is at hand...

***Prayer of Invocation Unison**

All: Holy God, help us when we lose hope.

Sometimes we feel that you are far, far away.

We pray that you would come into our world again.

Be Emmanuel for us,

so that we may notice where you are already present.

**Help us live into your hope so that we may be your light
shining in the dark places of our world. Amen.**

Welcome

First Parish Church is rooted in the Congregational tradition of democratic governance and the full inclusion and participation of all who call this their spiritual home. We take seriously the responsibility to make the Christian faith our own in this time and place and seek to live lives of generous service.

***Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - #116, NCH**

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Choir Anthem People Look East – Besancon carol, words by Eleanor Farjeon, arr. Malcolm Archer.

People, look East. The time is near for the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way. Angels, announce to man and beast him who cometh from the East. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Prayer Intentions

Pastoral Prayer

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.

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.

Scripture Reading s Martha Farmer

Jeremiah 33:14 -16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have

the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sermon “ Emmanuel: A Song of Hope ” Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem And the Glory of the Lord (from ‘The Messiah’) – G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

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. (Isaiah 40:5)

*** Doxology #780 NCH**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Welcome to Christ's table.

All: We are glad to be here!

One: Lift up your hunger.

All: We do not hide our needs before God.

One: Prepare yourself to be hosted and fed.

All: The Bread of Life is our joy and satisfaction.

The Breaking, Pouring, and Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Holy One, we have met you at this table. Nourished by your holy food, send us out as one people, full of vision and courage, to prepare the way for your kingdom. Filled with your grace, show us how to live so that all may know your hope, your peace, your joy, and your love. We pray in the

sacred name of Jesus Christ, child-king, divine Messiah, and Prince of Peace, Amen.

* **Hymn** Come, O Long-Expected Jesus - #122, NCH

* **Blessing**

Closing Song - God Bless You and Keep You – Jay Althouse (1951)
God bless you and keep you wherever you may go; His love be a constant companion. God lead you and guide you and be at your side. God bless you and keep you forever.

* Indicates the congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.

Our Deacons are Nancy Peterson & Sue Parker

Our Greeter is Marty Farmer

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.

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

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.

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, December 5 and 19. 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.

A Church Directory, Fall is available at the Church and in the Church Office.

Hands on Opportunities at First Parish

First Parish has continuing collections for –

- **The Open Door** Most needed items – canned chicken & tuna, peanut butter, healthy snacks, 100% juice boxes, cereal, hearty soups, canned fruits & veggies.
- **Operation Troop Support** Socks, and small board and card games.
- **The Grace Center** Gift Cards from local grocery markets for perishables like cream, butter, milk.

Drop items at the Chapel (inside and outside bins) and at the Church

Book Group is open to everyone! Book Group 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! Book Group meets on the last Monday of the month, at 6:30 PM, and hosting is shared among members.

December 16 , 6:30 PM Christmas potluck dinner at Nancy Peterson's home 111 Chebacco Rd. South Hamilton. Participating in a Yankee Swap, with a wrapped used book, is optional. RSVP to Nancy at 508 -284-0883 or nancypete1@gmail.com.



ADVENT
at First Parish Church
Manchester-by-the-Sea

❄️ Wednesday Evening Vespers, 6pm

★ **SUNDAY DEC 8TH**
2pm Christmas Carol Sing
3:30pm Friendship Tree Lighting

- **SATURDAY DEC 14TH & SUNDAY DEC 15TH**
12p-4p Winter Queen's Emporium
Characters, decorations and a thrifty shopping experience for kids.

❄️ **SUNDAY DEC 15TH**
4pm Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols"
With Mary Jane Ruppert (Harp), and the FPCC Choir

- **CHRISTMAS EVE - TUESDAY, DEC 24TH**
5p Impromptu Pageant and Candlelight Service
7:30p Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

