



**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 Sunday Christmastide
December 29, 2024
10:00 am**

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of the Candles

Prelude Noel #2 (from 'Six Noels') –Marcel Tournier (1879-1951); Es Ist Ein Ros' Entsprungen (It Is An Upspringing Rose) – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

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

*** Call to Worship**

One: We are here because we have heard a promise of peace,

Many: And we have faith its day will come.

One: We have heard a rumor of justice,

Many: And we have faith its day will come.

One: We have heard a whisper of hope,

Many: And we have faith its day will come.

One: We have heard a hint of love,

Many: And we have faith its day will come.

One: We have heard of the birth of the Christ-child,

Many: And we have faith his day is here.

One: Welcome to worship.

Many: Welcome to Christmas.

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.

***Prayer of Invocation** *Unison*

***Hymn** Go Tell It on the Mountain - #488, Pilgrim Hymnal

Passing of the Peace

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.

Scripture Reading Bethany Woods

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

Isaiah 52:7 - 10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy,
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹ Break forth; shout together for joy,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Sermon " Go Tell It! " Rev. Katherine Schofield

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Prelude in E Major (from WTC, book 1)– J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*** 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.**

*** Hymn God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen - #122 Pilgrim Hymnal**

*** Blessing**

Postlude – Noel Suisse – Louis -Claude Daquin (1694 -1772)

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

**Our Deacons are Nancy Peterson & Sue Parker
Our Greeter is Bethany Woods**

Please welcome Mary Jane Rupert this morning. Mary Jane has been a freelance pianist, harpist, and organist in the Boston area for the past 40 years. Holding degrees in music from Oberlin College and Indiana University, she also toured the Eastern US and Midwest as well as Thailand, New Zealand with flutist Peter Bloom.

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.

January 27 , 6:30 PM at Mary Lumsden's home , 18 Woodcrest Rd. Manchester. We will discuss the book *The Winter Soldier* by Daniel Mason. RSVP to Mary at 978-712-0047 or rasc84@hotmail.com.

**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