



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 Impromptu Pageant
December 24, 2025, 5:00 PM**

PRELUDE - Christmas Medley II –The First Noel, It Came Upon a
Midnight Clear, O Come All Ye Faithful - arr. Linda Hartman

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

In thanksgiving to God, our collection this evening supports the ministries of First Parish Church, and the UCC Christmas Fund, which offers financial assistance to retired clergy and church workers in need.

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

POSTLUDE Ding Dong Merrily on High! – French Carol, arr. Brent Edstrom

Special Thanks to: The Holy Family - Andrea, Dan, Patrick and Cassie Lance-Weaver, The Wise Men - Jane Pearson, David Lumsden, Brian Parker, and our volunteers Jane Pearson, MaryJo Feuerbach, Betsy Nickless.

Our Deacons are John Feuerbach and Paul Gudonis.

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

The Church Office is closed for the holidays. It will reopen Monday, January 5, 9 AM.



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. Donations to the Deacon Fund \$335

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Larry L. Larsen

Jolene and Kate Larsen

Grace and George Neilson, Annemie Robert and George Eschauzier

Jan and Peter Eschauzier

Stephen, Ernest and Jean Groth

Marlene Dolan, Janet Groth

Bill Houghton, and Gene and Elaine Shrimpton

The Shrimpton – Houghton Family

Pauline and Ted Bzdula

Paula Bzdula

*Antone DeMoura Jr, Florence Lincoln DeMoura, Lincoln A. DeMoura, and
Lincoln H. DeMoura*

David DeMoura

Our parents, Barbara, Willard, Ellyn and Wendell

Barbara and Richard Smith

June Nickless and Doug Emery

Martha Emery

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

Paul Driscoll and Nancy Peterson

Robert W. Graul, Jr. and Edith Graul

Robert Graul

Our parents Caleb, Rosemary, Ethel and Robert

Rosemary Loring & David Byrne

Our Grandparents and Abuelos

Brian and Rosy Parker

Vincent and Alrie Terrill

Susan Martinieau

IN CELEBRATION OF

Christmas

Mary Ellen & Jerry Cook

The marriage of Mara Franklin and Ryan Mazalatis

Cynthia and Barry Franklin

IN HONOR OF

George Nickless and Nancy Klebart

Jolene Larsen

Our Loved Ones

The Lumsden Family

Our wonderful children, Mara, Lake, Naomi and Charlotte

Cynthia and Barry Franklin

You can contribute to the good work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge @PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester or Venmo to @FirstParish-Church (978-907-3781).

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.

Looking for a space for your upcoming event? Our community hall is a lovely spot. There is a sound system and projector available. Members pay a discounted rate. Check availability by call 978-526-7661 x1 or email office.fpchurch@gmail.com.

Prayer Wall - Give it a try! Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. <https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/> 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.

We also have traveling prayers walls throughout the year. Look for us at the 4th of July Parade, Festival by the Sea, Burgers & Bingo and other community events!

Stephen's Ministry 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).

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.

Family Worship (second Sunday of the month) children of all ages stay in worship for these special intergenerational services.

Church School (all other Sundays) children depart from worship around 10:15a for their own time of learning, crafting, sharing and playing.

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.

The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, **Jan. 8 & 22, 1-3 PM**. We welcome all to stop by. 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.

Considering Book Group?

Try us out in the new year! Upcoming books - February Bible TBA, March, The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier, April, The Chaperone by Laura Moriarty May, Finding Margaret Fuller by Allison Pataki, June, Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. 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. Meets on the last Monday of the month, and hosting is shared among members.

Hands on Community Service, all items can be dropped at the Chapel or Church –

First Parish Church serves dinner at The Open Door, Gloucester, Emerson Ave. Gloucester, monthly. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CABA822A1F49-54306850-open> Operation Troop Support Socks, any size. Small board & card games. The Open Door Pantry items welcome. Pancake & waffle mix, maple syrup, 100% fruit juice. They are also grateful for bake mixes including muffin mixes.

The Grace Center welcomes gift cards from local grocery markets to help the center provide cream, butter and other perishables.

Community Events going on in our hall during the week –

Manchester Seniors - Drop in for Coffee & Conversation - Every Monday (except holidays) 9:45 - 11:45 AM Hospitality provided by The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging. Come sit down, talk and play some games!
Strong Women Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 AM Sponsored by the Council on Aging

Mindfulness Meditation Tuesdays 11- noon and 5 - 6 PM Sponsored by the MBTS Library