



Sunday Worship

First Parish

A liberal religious community, welcoming to all

First gathered 1739

December 10, 2023

Worship in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and Online

The sun rose at 7:02am and will set at 4:12pm *in sh'allah*
bringing us 9 hours, 9 minutes of sunlight,
8 minutes less than last Sunday.

The moon is waning toward a new moon on Tuesday.

Today is the second Sunday in Advent
and the third day of Hanukkah.

Sounding of the Chime

*In the sanctuary silence during the prelude is appreciated.
Please also silence your cell phones and electronic devices.*

Prelude

Gabriel's Oboe
by Ennio Morricone, from *The Mission*
First Parish C-Winds:
Robin Baker, Stephanie Franzosa
Amy Pohl and Anne Quaadgras

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Erica Richmond
Parish Minister

Greeting your Neighbor

Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Lead Minister

Hymn 226

People, Look East

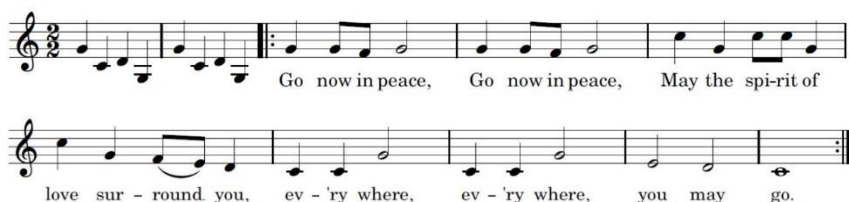
Time for All Ages

Heather Mumford and Greg Brodsky
Oscar and Benjy Brodsky

As children leave for religious education we sing:

Go Now in Peace

Natalie Sleeth



Installation of Lay Ministers

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan

*Today Robbie Rinearson joins Carolyn Carlson,
Rainer Dressler, Christa Kelleher, Steve McMullin
and Greg Ruccio as lay ministers. We give thanks to
Jerry Silberman for his service as a lay minister.*

Compassion and care
are among the highest callings.
We welcome Robbie Rinearson
as a lay minister for pastoral care.
We ask you to represent
the best of our community by offering
comfort, consolation and companionship.
We will bring to the attention
of all the lay ministers
those among us in need.
We will assist you in your work.
With you we widen our circle of care.

Celebrations and Concerns

Robbie Rinearson
Lay Minister

If moved to do so, you may place a stone
for a joy or sorrow you are holding in your heart.

If you write a joy or sorrow on the card
available at the back of the sanctuary,
the ordained and lay ministers will hold it
in their thoughts and prayers.

If you wish to speak of your joy or sorrow,
please line up after placing your stone.

When you are motioned forward,
speak into the microphone and tell us your name.
Speak briefly and from your own experience.

Interlude for the Placing of Stones

Love Theme
by Ennio Morricone, from *Cinema Paradiso*
First Parish C-Winds

Prayer and Silent Meditation

David Whitford
Worship Associate

Musical Response

Amen, Blessed Be
Kenneth Seitz, piano

Words: *Amen, Blessed Be. Shalom, Salaam.*

Sung twice by the congregation

Amen, Blessed Be, Shalom, Salaam

Kenneth H. Seitz



Offering

S'Vivon, Sov, Sov, Sov
(Dreidel, Spin, Spin, Spin)
by Kenneth Seitz
Robin Baker and Amy Pohl, flutes
Kenneth Seitz, piano

*This Sunday half of the offering supports
the Cole Resource Center,
dedicated to helping people affected
by mental health challenges lead full lives.
The remaining half supports the life of this Parish.
To donate using your smartphone, you may text
“fpuu offering” to 73256..*

Hymn 223

Rock of Ages

Sermon

Rev. Erica Richmond

Hymn 228

Once in Royal David's City

Benediction

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan

***May faith in the Spirit of Life,
Hope for the community of Earth,
and Love of the sacred in one another
Be ours now and in all the days to come.***

Postlude

When I'm Sixty-Four
by John Lennon and Paul McCartney
First Parish C-Winds

All are asked to remain seated during the postlude.

*After worship those in the sanctuary are invited to move
into the vestry for light refreshments and conversation.*

*If it is 11:30 parents are asked to quietly leave to pick up
their children from the religious education program.*

Lay Ministry for 2023-2024

Carolyn Carlson is now in her third year as a Lay Minister. She has been coming to First Parish since September 2014. Her day job is undergraduate academic administrator in the Anthropology program at MIT. She lives in Arlington with her husband Steve, her kids Samantha and Lydia, and two cats.

Rainer Dressler has been coming to First Parish with his wife Cheryl and daughter Caroline for twenty three years. Rainer has family in Switzerland and enjoys being able to travel to connect with them. He is entering his fourth year as a First Parish Lay Minister.

Christa Kelleher is a sociologist who conducts policy-relevant research and provides consultation for municipal diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism projects. She lives in Arlington with her spouse, Anthony, two adolescent sons, and three wonderful kitties. Christa enjoys serving as a lay minister and has been a member of First Parish for more than 10 years.

Stephen McMullin joined FP in 2010, and has had many different roles within the congregation. He served as a Religious Education teacher for six years, and served on the Finance, Trustee, Usher, Property, and Parish Committees. He is entering his second year as a lay minister.

Robbie Rinearson has been a member of First Parish for 27 years. She and her husband Bob Fowkers raised their two kids, Katie and Will here. Robbie was a Coming of Age mentor for many of those years and is very active with the Women's Alliance.

Greg Ruccio has been a member of First Parish for more than 10 years and is currently a Lay Minister and a member of the Property Committee. He enjoys many outdoor activities including hiking, running, skiing and dog walking.

Holiday Worship at First Parish

All services are both in the sanctuary and online except for the 10 am and 4 pm services on December 24, which are in person only.

Sunday, December 17, 10 am

Merrily We Sing!

Rev. Stevie Carmody, our Minister of Religious Education, and Rev. Marta Flanagan, our Lead Minister weave together story and reflections. The Choir sings under the direction of our new Interim Music Director Daniel Parsley.

Note: Grades Kindergarten and up (including Youth!) are warmly invited to join in this intergenerational service—typically, a more interactive experience, with support for the young ones among us (like our new Children’s Order of Service). We’ll close with a ritual dear to First Parish: decorating our Christmas tree with long paper ring chains.

Sunday, Dec 24, 10 am (in person only)

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

We’ll gather in the vestry for a live recording of A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College Chapel at Cambridge University. Hot beverages and donuts will be served! Led by Worship Associate David Whitford.

Sunday, December 24

4pm (in person only) and 6pm

Candlelight Services

The Christmas Eve services are offered twice due to the number of people attending. Both services feature the lighting of candles, organ fanfares and children reading the ancient tale. Rev. Erica Richmond offers a homily.

You Sing My Hymn, I Sing Yours

Welcome to worship at First Parish- whatever your story, wherever you are on your journey.

In worship we seek both affirmation and challenge, for these are necessary ingredients for spiritual growth and deepening.

We come with different theological and religious orientations, but we do not seek sameness or some common denominator. We engage in worship with open hearts and minds. Our sung and spoken words reflect a range of religious perspectives.

In worship, some elements will touch us deeply, and some will not. Whatever our personal preferences about the elements in any worship service, we say, *You sing my hymn, I sing yours*. In worship we give and receive.

The First Parish Worship Associates
November 2015

First Parish's Mission

First Parish is committed to inward spiritual growth, side by side companionship of one another, and turning outward in our work in the world.

We choose to be a liberal religious community,
welcoming to all.

We encourage each other on our spiritual journeys,
Support one another through the changes in our lives,
And challenge the excesses and injustices of our time.
Called to love and upheld by joy, we live our faith.

Adopted by the members of First Parish Arlington MA
March 28, 2010

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington

www.firstparish.info

First Parish is a liberal religious community working toward another way to be and act in our time. As a Unitarian Universalist congregation (www.uua.org), we are not bound to any statement of belief or creed but to an aspiration to act in love. We believe personal experience, conscience and reason are final authorities in religion.

A religious education program for children meets during Sunday worship. Children are given the tools with which to answer their religious questions of the world.

To learn more, visit the information table after worship. You can sign up for the weekly E-Bulletin there or by emailing churchoffice@firstparish.info

First Parish is self governing and supported by members and friends who contribute their time, talent and treasure. The elected Parish Committee (“ParCom”) is the governing board. ParCom can be reached at Parishexec@firstparish.info.

Sara Galantowicz, Chair	Anne Quaadgras, Vice-Chair	
Joanna Pushee, Clerk	Carolyn Hodges, Treasurer	
John Anderson	Jeff Keffer	Jon Stutz
Allan Tosti	Celia Wcislo	

Staff serve the members, leaders and mission of First Parish.

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, *Lead Minister*
Rev. Erica Richmond, *Parish Minister*
Rev. Stevie Carmody, *Minister of Religious Education*
Daniel Parsley, *Interim Music Director*
Kenneth Seitz, *Director of Music, Emeritus*
Rose Sawyer Marsh, *Youth Program Coordinator*
Emily Spisto, *Religious Education Assistant*
Sara Hidalgo, *Office Manager*
Joe Cook, *Office & Communications Associate*
Jaqueline De Jesus, *Sexton*
Rev. Wendy Page, *Affiliate Minister*

A Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation, First Parish warmly and intentionally welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer and transgender people.