



~Worship This Holiday Season~

Rev. Erica Richmond, Parish Minister

"Peace and a Few of Our Favorite Things"

Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 10am

On the third day of Hanukkah, Parish Minister Rev. Erica Richmond preaches on what ancient and modern texts reveal about peace. Peace is not a passive stance but a hard-won salve to an aching world. And hear how Eleanor Roosevelt connects to all of this! Worship includes the installation of our New Lay Ministers and accompaniment by our own "C-Winds" on wind instruments.

Join us in the sanctuary or join us [online!](#) View the Order of Service [Here](#)

Follow the [blue links](#) to see updated information [about worship services](#) and [Religious Education activities](#) during the 2023 Advent Holiday season!

Embrace the Darkness Worship Service

THIS Friday, December 8, 7pm

Rev. Marta Flanagan

For the 14th year at First Parish we offer a special evening worship service during the holiday season to "Embrace the Darkness." UUlations will sing and guest pianist Anna Arazi will offer music. This service is an opportunity to acknowledge the darkness that surrounds the light of this festive season. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Religious Education

Support the food drive organized by the children of First Parish for Arlington EATS by bringing in healthy, filling, non-perishable food to the First Parish lobby by THIS Sunday, Dec. 10th.

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Youth Group and OWL are meeting this Sunday evening.

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Read about [all the special activities](#) that the Religious Education program has planned for families during the 2023 holiday season.

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Learn different ways you can [support the RE program](#) at First Parish.

Calendar

Dec 7: [Women's Book Group](#)
Dec 8: [Embrace the Darkness](#)
Dec 9: [Babysitting night](#)
Dec 10: [Sunday Baking](#)
Dec 10: [Zoom Meditation](#)
Dec 10: [Sunday Worship](#)
Dec 10: [Sample Covenant Group](#)
Dec 10: [Reckoning/Repair](#)
Dec 11: [Spirit Talk](#)
Dec 11: [In-Person Meditation](#)
Dec 12: [Lectio Divina](#)
Dec 12: [Zoom Meditation](#)
Dec 13: [Lectio Divina](#)
Dec 14: [Lectio Divina](#)
Dec 14: [Women Aging Well](#)
Dec 14: [Older Men's Lunch](#)

Welcome to our staff team

Daniel Parsley (Interim Music Director), enjoys an active career as a conductor, educator, scholar, and professional chorister. He is thrilled to be leading the music program as Interim Music Director through June. Daniel is Director of Choral Activities at the School of Music at BU. Jaqueline De Jesus (Sexton), started working as our sexton in mid November. She takes care of our building during the week; you will also see her on Sundays during coffee hour. Jaqueline is originally from Brazil; she has lived in Massachusetts for 20 years and brings many years of experience.

~~ Spotlight ~~

- **Celebrate and Honor with Poinsettias** Whether you want to express gratitude, remember someone special, celebrate the arrival of child, honor a friendship or anniversary, or simply acknowledge something that has touched your heart, a poinsettia is the perfect gift. These stunning red flowers will adorn our Sanctuary during the holiday season. [Click here to log into Realm and order your flowers today!](#)
- **Covenant Group Registration for 2024 is now open.** We invite you to [attend a sample session](#) hosted by Rev. Marta Flanagan and Peter Heller THIS Sunday, December 10, from 11:45am-1:00pm in the Stanton Parlor. If you want to register for a Covenant group, sign up for the sample session, or simply have more questions, please contact Kate Lenox at covenantgroups@firstparish.info.

First Parish Events are open to all. Click the links to learn more.

- **Women's Book Group** (TONIGHT, Thursday, December 7, 7:00pm, Zoom) The women's book group meets every first Thursday at 7pm (on Zoom), not including Summer months. Our next book for the First Parish Women's Book Group will be *Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks. [Email with questions](#) or for the Zoom link to attend.
- **Babysitting night for First Parish parents.** (THIS Saturday, December 9, 5:00pm, meet at First Parish) Parents of First Parish, this night is for you! Could you use a date night? Some time to do some shopping? A little quiet around the holidays? First Parish is offering free childcare to help in that. For the children, we'll host dinner, some light activities, time to explore the church, and part of a movie. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)
- **Sunday Baking at First Parish** (Sunday, December 10, 8am, Kitchen). Come help prepare delicious treats for the coffee hour. No need to register - come on in!
- **Sample Covenant Group session** (Sunday, December 10, after service, Parlor) Hosted by Rev. Marta Flanagan and Peter Heller. If you want to register for a Covenant group, sign up for the sample session, or simply have more questions, please contact Kate Lenox at covenantgroups@firstparish.info.
- **Reckoning and Repair - Next Steps** (Sunday, December 10, after service, Sanctuary) Please join the Reckoning & Repair working group in the Sanctuary for more thoughtful dialogue. We will review the concept of reparations and discuss what other institutions have done to address repair. Please bring your questions and concerns. If time allows, we will view a 13-minute film on the Tulsa Massacre of 1921. Light refreshments provided.
- **A Long Road Home: Roots of Homeownership Inequity** (Tuesday, December 12, 6:00pm, Zoom) Join the UU Urban Ministry for "The Long Road Home," the latest discussion in its series about gentrification and displacement in Boston. Aja Kennedy of Boston Indicators will address the history of Boston's racial homeownership gap.
- **Women Aging Well** (Thursday, December 14, 10:00am, Vestry) Our goal for this group is to foster engagement and build community among women over fifty who wish to explore themes related to planning and consciously living out our later years. Some meetings have guest speakers; others include small-group or large-group conversations. Our final meeting for 2023 will be in person, Thursday, December 14, in the Vestry at First Parish.
- **Older Men's Lunch Meeting** (Thursday, December 14, 12:00noon, Zoom) First Parish's Older Men's group continues to meet, using Zoom. The sessions will be held at noon every other Thursday. [Email mensgroup@firstparish.info](mailto:mensgroup@firstparish.info) for more information.
- **Our Partner Church in Transylvania** (Sunday, December 17, 11:45am, Parlor) Please join pilgrims who travelled to Gagy, Transylvania in the Parlor at 11:45 on Sunday, December 17th (after worship) to learn more about our partner church. Might you be interested in a journey of broadening cultural and spiritual horizons next summer? Or contact us to learn more: partnerchurch@firstparish.info

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- **Giving First Recipient for December 2023** The [Cole Resource Center](#) offers custom support for individuals and family members facing mental challenges. CRC's staff have both lived experience and expertise in navigating the mental healthcare system. The non-clinical support offered by the Cole Resource Center has proven an invaluable complement to clinical care, especially during this time of intense community need for mental health services. For more information, please see <https://www.coleresourcecenter.org/>
- **Giving First Nominations for 2024.** Members of the congregation submit nominations to the Social Justice Coordinating Committee. The Social Justice Coordinating Committee is accepting 2024 Giving First Nominations November 13-December 22, 2023. Decisions will be made by the end of January, 2024. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- **Rose of Recognition from the Parish Committee** The Parish Committee voted a "Rose of Recognition" to two long-time and dedicated First Parish members Lori Kenschaft and Alan Linov, applauding their leadership, energy and commitment to our beloved First Parish community. [Learn more.](#)
- **Covenant Group Registration for 2024 is now open.** We invite you to [attend a sample session](#) hosted by Rev. Marta Flanagan and Peter Heller on Sunday, Dec 10, from 11:45am-1:00pm in the Stanton Parlor. If you want to register for a Covenant group, sign up for the sample session, or simply have more questions, please contact Kate Lenox at covenantgroups@firstparish.info.

Recurring and Ongoing Programs

Weekly or Bi-weekly

- **Lectio Divina:** *(Meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on Zoom.)* Lectio Divina is a method of reading and listening, lingering with, and sharing personal responses to selected biblical texts. Diverse responses to the text provide new insights and help us grow in our spiritual lives and set intentions for our daily lives.
- **Meditation Groups** *Meets Sunday, 9am (Zoom); Monday, 6pm (in person); Tuesday, 6pm (Zoom).* Beginners and experienced meditators are welcome. Please feel free to drop in whenever you like. For more information, or to be added to the list to receive each Zoom session's unique link, please email meditation@firstparish.info
- **Men's Group** - Men of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to meet with First Parish's Men's Group! We meet online every other Sunday at 7pm to connect and support each other on our spiritual journeys.
- **Older Men's Lunch Group** continues to meet, on Zoom. Email mensgroup@firstparish.info for more information. The sessions will be held at noon every other Thursday.
- **Spirit Talks** Weekly discussions provide an opportunity for a small group to reflect together on a spiritual theme every Monday at 4pm. Email spirittalk@firstparish.info to be added to the mailing list for Spirit Talk or just check us out by joining a discussion.

Monthly

- **The Diversity Book Club** generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month. All are welcome, please join us! Register by email diversitybookclub@firstparish.info
- **Grief Support Group** Lay Ministry led support for individuals who have lost loved ones. The group generally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, on Zoom.
- **Women Aging Well: Changing Life Purpose** - Aging Well meets once a month, usually on the fourth Thursday of the month. Our purpose is to foster engagement and build community among women over fifty who wish to explore themes related to planning and consciously living out our later years.
- **The Women's Alliance of First Parish** The Alliance is the women's organization in our church, with a mission to support the women in our congregation, and through that support to advance the interests and efforts of our entire church. Look for our program on the First Parish Website. [The next Alliance event is January 12.](#)
- **Women's Book Group** The women's book group meets every first Thursday at 7pm, not including Summer months, so our next meeting is TONIGHT December 7. [Email](#) with questions or for the Zoom link to attend.

The First Parish publishes events and news from our community. Click this banner to submit your news or event.

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