



Sunday Worship

First Parish

A liberal religious community, welcoming to all

First gathered 1739

**April 28, 2024**

**Worship in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and Online**

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The sun rose at 5:44am and will set at 7:41pm *in sh'allah*  
bringing us 13 hours, 57 minutes of sunlight,  
18 minutes more than last Sunday.

The moon is waning toward its last quarter on Wednesday.

For Jewish people, tonight is the seventh night of Passover.

For those of the Orthodox tradition today is Palm Sunday.

For Pagans, Tuesday is Beltane.

## **Sounding of the Chime**

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

### **Prelude**

*A Taste of Bass*  
Valerie Capers  
Kenneth Seitz, piano

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Erica Federspiel Richmond, Parish Minister

### **Introduction of the Alliance and the Annual Award**

Andrea Winslow and Nancy Crasco  
Alliance members

Each year the Alliance of First Parish sponsors an Alliance Sunday. The Alliance recognizes those who have given much and selects the preacher for worship. The Alliance is the women's organization of First Parish, with a mission to support the women of our congregation, and through that support to advance the interests and efforts of our entire First Parish.

Membership in The Alliance is open only to women, but Alliance activities are inclusive across gender and age: men attend meetings as guests and as speakers, and The Alliance is supportive of, and supported by, the youth and children of First Parish.

### **Greeting Your Neighbor**

### **Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting**

Loren Gomez, Worship Associate

### **Hymn 360**

*Here We Have Gathered*

## **Child Dedications**

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Lead Minister  
Rev. Erica Federspiel Richmond, Parish Minister  
Rev. Stevie Carmody, Minister of Religious Education

Children of Melissa Naylor and Jeff Francis:

**Cecilia Belle Francis**

born November 6, 2014

**Maxwell Naylor Francis**

born December 1, 2017

**Josephine “JoJo” Dorothy Francis**

born November 12, 2020

Daughter of Alice and Joe Panniello:

**Julia Jo Panniello**

born June 13, 2023

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Congregational Response:

**We welcome Cecilia, Max, JoJo and Julia.**

**We rejoice with their families**

**in the promise they bring.**

**We will try to live our lives as models**

**of pride and integrity to the young.**

**We take upon ourselves the privilege**

**and the responsibility of helping to nurture**

**the character and spirit of all our children.**

**We pledge the support of this community**

**as a warm and caring place for religious growth.**

*As children leave for religious education we sing:*

***Hymn 409 “Sleep, My Child”***

# Celebrations and Concerns

Greg Ruccio  
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** *Candle Music*  
Kenneth Seitz, piano

**Prayer and Silent Meditation** Rev. Marta Flanagan

**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



A-men, Bles-sed Be, Sha - lom, Sa - laam..



A - men, Bles-sed Be, Sha - lom, Sa - laam.

## Offering

*I Believe*  
Mark Miller  
First Parish Choir

*This Sunday half of the offering supports the Living Legacy Project, committed to ensuring that the stories and lessons of the Civil Rights Movement do not get lost or forgotten. The remaining half of your offering supports the life and work of this Parish.*

*To donate using your smartphone, you may text “fpuu offering” to 73256. Then follow the directions in the texts you receive. If you would like your entire offering to support your pledge, indicate “pledge” on your check or envelope.*

**Sermon**

Lara James

**Hymn 298, verses 1, 3, 4**

*Wake, Now, My Senses*

**Benediction**

***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.***

*Saying these words responsively is a custom at  
First Parish. You are invited to take the hand of  
one beside you or place your hand on their shoulder.*

**Postlude**

*Silk Hat and Walking Cane*

Florence Price

Kenneth Seitz, piano

*Our postlude is the concluding passage of our  
common worship.  
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.*

## **About our Alliance Sunday Preacher**

From one classroom in Brookline, Massachusetts in 1976, Facing History & Ourselves has become a global organization with a network of hundreds of thousands of middle and secondary school educators reaching millions of students worldwide.

Facing History & Ourselves helps educators prepare students to participate in civic life—using empathy, ethics, and choice to stand up to bigotry and hate in their own lives, communities, and schools. Their curriculum is taught in every US state and over 100 countries around the world.

**Lara James** is Chief Marketing and Communications Officer of Facing History & Ourselves. Since Lara began in 2017, Facing History’s educator network has more than doubled to over 300,000 active educators.

Before joining Facing History, Lara served as Vice President of Brand Marketing for MassMutual, and prior to that in a similar position at Capital One. Lara started her career at Temple, Barker and Sloane on Hayden Avenue in Lexington after receiving a BA in History from Oberlin College.

Raised in Lexington, her family attended Follen Church Unitarian Universalist before they joined the Religious Society of Friends in Cambridge. Lara and her husband have three adult sons and live in Amherst MA.

## Facing History and Ourselves

The mission of Facing History & Ourselves is to use lessons of history to challenge teachers and their students to stand up to bigotry and hate.

Since the late 1970s, the group claims to have trained over 10,000 teachers, who have taught over half a million students in the U.S. and Canada. The curriculum is now also used in Israel, Northern Ireland, South Africa and China. The course is aimed at middle school and high school students. In the classroom, students take part in group discussions and use primary source material to learn about different historical events. The curriculum aims to create a history course with a reflective component, allowing students to think about modern day prejudices. The semester-long class starts with learning about the impact of the individual in society and how one is affected by his or her environment and culture. Students then learn about governments and the roles citizens play in their nation, and talk about the effects of bystanders in society. Classes gradually move into talking about dehumanization and how different societal groups can turn against each other, threatening a democracy. The course is taught by looking into racial segregation in the United States. Students also learn about the Armenian genocide, Cambodian Genocide, and the history of Native Americans and Japanese Americans in the USA. The final subject focused on is antisemitism and Nazi Germany.

The course aims to connect the events with the students' lives by calling for reflection. Students are asked to think about familiar subjects such as peer pressure, conformity, and belongingness. The course's goal is to help students realize their role in society, and to promote global citizenship so that future events like the ones discussed can be prevented.



## **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

## **Upcoming Congregational Vote on Indigenous Justice and Reckoning and Repair**

Both the Reckoning and Repair group and the Indigenous Justice Working Group have been hard at work these past years. After a lot of congregational education, presentations, and listening sessions, they have integrated the community's feedback. On Tuesday, April 16th, each group presented to the Parish Committee. The Parish Committee unanimously endorsed both resolutions printed below, and voted to add both statements to the May Annual Meeting warrant. The congregation will vote on whether or not to adopt these resolutions on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Annual Meeting.

### **Resolved, that First Parish adopt the following Land Acknowledgement statement:**

The First Parish meetinghouse is located on the ancestral lands of the Massachusett people, whose name was appropriated by this Commonwealth. The European colonists who took land from its inhabitants through coercion and violence also subjected Indigenous people to forced labor, relocation, and genocide. Our faith calls us to acknowledge the truth of our history, to name the ongoing harms of settler colonialism, and to work toward repair. We resolve to be in right relationship with the Massachusett and other Indigenous peoples, particularly the federally recognized Wampanoag nations of Mashpee and Aquinnah. We commit to finding meaningful ways to offer our support as we work in solidarity to build a more sustainable future for us all.

**Resolved, that First Parish adopt the following  
Affirmation of Reckoning and Repair:**

**Acknowledgement:** To create beloved community, rooted in justice and inspired by love, we break past silences and name our congregation's entanglement with the institution of slavery, which began with the founding of the congregation in 1739. At least eight of First Parish's sixteen original pew owners enslaved Black people, and our initial congregation was founded in part on the uncompensated labor, resources, skills, and talents of enslaved people.

**Commitment:** First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington is committed to building relationships with local, Black-led organizations to shape a framework for meaningful reparations. We commit to a process of reparations guided by people of African heritage and the broader reparations movement, and we will work within and beyond our congregation's walls to bring about holistic repair. In tandem with seeking out and forming relationships with Black-led organizations, the Reckoning & Repair working group will continue gathering congregational feedback about a plan for reparations. All annual fiscal decisions will be made by the appropriate committees within the congregation, while all longer-term fiscal commitments will be made by congregational vote.

Reparations are central to the struggle to build a world based on justice, care, and uplift, and we commit ourselves to this work. Hand in hand we will find a way.

## **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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Parishexec@firstparish.info).

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

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

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, *Lead Minister*  
Rev. Erica Federspiel 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*  
Ebiere Omoregie, *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.