



Sunday Worship

First Parish

A liberal religious community, welcoming to all

First gathered 1739

November 10, 2024

Worship in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and Online

The sun rose at 6:29am and will set at 4:28pm *in sh'allah*
bringing us 9 hours, 58 minutes of sunlight,
17 minutes less than last Sunday.

The moon is waxing to its fullness on Friday.

Sounding of the Chime

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

Prelude

For the Beauty of the Earth - DIX

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

First Parish Bell Choir

Jennifer Kobayashi - director

Anne Cross

James Fleming

Carolyn Hodges

John Hodges

Andrew Kobayashi

Sanjay Newton

Adam MacNeill

Yanni Peri-Okonny

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Marta Flanagan

Lead Minister

Greeting Your Neighbor

Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting

Lillian Povey

Worship Associate

Congregational Affirmation

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.

First Parish Mission Statement

Adopted by the members of First Parish Arlington MA

March 28, 2010

Hymn 298, verses, 1,3,4

Wake, Now, My Senses

Time for All Ages

Rev. Stevie Carmody
Minister of Religious Education

As children leave for religious education we sing:

Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the spirit of love surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Vayan en paz, vayan en paz
Pueda el amor rodear los siempre
por doquier, por doquier que vayan.

Go Now in Peace -- Vayan en paz

Trans. Rev. Lilia Cuervo

Natalie Sleeth

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff begins with a measure rest marked with a '4'.

Go now in peace, Gonow in peace. May_ the_ spi - rit of
Va - yan en paz, va-yan en paz, Pue - da el a - mor_ ro-de -

love sur - round you ev-'ry where, ev-'ry-where, you may go.
ar_ los si - em - pre por do-quier, por do-quier, que va - yan.

Installation of Lay Ministers

*Today Jeanne Feeley and Julie Garry join
Carolyn Carlson, Christa Kelleher, Robbie Rinearson
and Greg Ruccio as lay ministers.
We give thanks to Rainer Dressler and
Steve McMullin for their service as lay ministers.*

Compassion and care are among our highest callings.
We bless this team of lay ministers:
Carolyn, Christa, Greg, Robbie, Julie and Jeanne.
We ask you to represent
the best of our community by offering
comfort, consolation, and companionship.
We will assist you in your work.
With you we widen our circle of care.

Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Erica Federspiel Richmond, Parish 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. Erica Richmond

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

Peace
Kevin Siegfried
First Parish Choir

*This Sunday half of your offering supports
Resource Organizing Project.
ROP collaborates with and provides training to
justice and liberation organizations in New England.
ROP is endorsed by the
Reparations Interfaith Coalition
and the Episcopal Dioceses.*

*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.*

Once a year, the Giving First Task Force
offers members of the congregation
an opportunity to nominate a charity
for consideration for the upcoming year
To learn more about the program,
the criteria used to select charities,
and to submit a nomination
please visit our website at
[https://firstparish.info/justice-inclusion/
social-justice/giving-first/](https://firstparish.info/justice-inclusion/social-justice/giving-first/)
All nominations must be submitted online.
The Giving First Task Group
of the Social Justice Coordinating Committee
is accepting nominations from
November 13 through December 23, 2024

Responsive Reading 588

Isaiah 58

Hymn 149

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Sermon

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan

“What We Know to be True”

Hymn 368

Now Let Us Sing

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

A Slow Waltz for Troubled Times

Kenneth Seitz

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.*

The Lay Ministry Program at First Parish

The Lay Ministry Program serves to deepen the sense of community and caring within the church community by providing support and a sense of connection during times of need. The program coordinates its activities in consultation with the ordained minister and, where appropriate, church staff.

Ministry in our church belongs to everyone. This program is structured to provide members of the First Parish community organized ways to care for persons in need in a timely and effective manner. The program seeks to involve as many people as wish to participate in caring for our community through a two-tiered structure.

Finally, the pastoral ministry of the ordained ministers and staff must be limited, given their small number, largely to times of crisis and death and to short-term counseling. The Lay Ministry program is intended to provide a thoughtful solution to this very real limitation. Lay ministers will both assist the congregation by supporting members during times of need, and will support the ministerial and staff efforts in pastoral ministry.

Lay Ministry for 2024-2025

Carolyn Carlson is now in her fifth year as a Lay Minister. She has been coming to First Parish since September 2014 and has volunteered with Stewardship, the Harvest Moon Fair, and as an RE teacher. Her day job is undergraduate academic administrator in the Anthropology program at MIT. She lives in Arlington with her husband Steve, daughters Samantha and Lydia, and two cats.

Jeanne Feeley has been attending First Parish since March of 2022. An RN at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Jeanne ushers, is a member of a covenant group, and attends lectio, potlucks and other church events when possible. She is a resident of West Medford, where she lives with one of her two daughters, Claire, and their dog Daisy. Her other daughter Liz lives in Medford as well.

Julie Garry has been attending First Parish for about twelve years. She has volunteered at numerous events, been a member of the RE Committee, went on the most recent youth service trip and enjoys joining in the kitchen shenanigans. She has miraculously remained married to Jenny Kramer longer than anyone imagined and is the proud parent to the amazing Fae Kramer.

Christa Kelleher has enjoyed serving on the lay ministry team for the last two years and looks forward to continuing in this role. A sociologist who works in the areas of policy analysis and public leadership, Christa resides in Arlington with one spouse, Anthony Fernandez, two adolescent sons, and three lovable cats. A member of First Parish for more than a dozen years, Christa has taught RE, served as Visiting Steward and contributed vegan treats to bake sales.

Robbie Rinearson has been a member of First Parish for 28 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 entering his third year as a Lay Minister. Greg is also Chair of the Property Committee, a member of the Memorial Garden Committee and coordinates the spring Man Made Chili for Town Day and the fall Harvest Moon Fair's Reboots and Rewind tech booth.

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

“There is a tendency to think that what we see in the present moment we will continue to see. We forget how often in the last hundred years we have been astonished by extraordinary changes....

“The bad things that happen are repetitions of bad things that have always happened – war, racism, maltreatment of women, religious and nationalist fanaticism, starvation.

“Political power, however formidable, is more fragile than we think.

“People are not naturally violent or cruel or greedy, although they can be made so. Human beings everywhere want the same things: they are moved by the sight of abandoned children, homeless families, the casualties of war; they long for peace, for friendship and affection across lines of race and nationality

“To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives.

“And if we do act, in however, small a way, we don’t have to wait for some grand Utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human being should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.

Howard Zinn,
You Can’t Be Neutral on a Moving Train
A book many at First Parish read together in 2022
and found solace and hope

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.

Anne Quaadgras, Chair	John Anderson, Vice-Chair	
Joanna Pushee, Clerk	Carolyn Hodges, Treasurer	
Jeff Keffer	Steve McMullin	Susan Moore
Allan Tosti	Kate Tranquada	

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, *Music Director*

Kenneth Seitz, *Director of Music, Emeritus*

Rose Sawyer Marsh, *Youth Program Coordinator*

Bella Jaffe, *Religious Education Assistant*

Ebiere Omoregie, *Office Manager*

Allison Sillers, *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.