



Sunday Worship

First Parish

A liberal religious community, welcoming to all

First gathered 1739

**December 1, 2024**

**Worship in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and Online**

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The sun rose at 6:53am and will set at 4:13pm *in sh'allah*  
bringing us 9 hours, 19 minutes of sunlight,  
11 minutes less than last Sunday.

The moon is waxing to the first quarter  
on Sunday December 8.

For Christians today is the first Sunday in Advent,  
the start of a four-week season of spiritual preparation

The blue chalice is burning on the chancel this morning for  
World AIDS Day.

World AIDS Day, December 1, is a global movement  
to unite people in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Since 1988, communities have stood together  
on World AIDS Day to show strength and solidarity  
against HIV stigma and to remember lives lost.

## **Sounding of the Chime**

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

### **Prelude**

*Thaxted*  
Gustav Holst  
Kenneth Seitz, piano

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Lead Minister

### **Greeting Your Neighbor**

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

### **Hymn 225**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*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 melody, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

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.

## **Spoken Memorials**

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan

*On the first Sunday of the month the names of those  
in the community who died this year are read aloud.  
Those who died this month in the past are printed in  
the order of service.*

## **Celebrations and Concerns**

Christa Kelleher  
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.

## **Interlude for the Placing of Stones**

*O Magnum Mysterium*  
Morten Lauridsen  
Diane Taraz, voice & dulcimer

## Prayer and Silent Meditation

Loren Gomez  
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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major (two flats). The melody is simple and repetitive. The first staff ends with a fermata over the final note. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below each staff.

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

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

## Offering

*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
Gustav Holst  
Diane Taraz, voice & dulcimer

*This Sunday half of your offering supports  
The Children's Room of Arlington, MA.  
The Children's Room offers grief support services  
for children and families,  
for schools, and for community organizations.  
Services include peer support groups, parent groups,  
teen programs, and Family Night.*

*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.*

## Reading

Naomi Shihab Nye  
read by Rev. Hank Peirce

## Hymn 295

*Sing Out Praises for the Journey*

Mark DeWolfe composed the lyrics for this hymn.  
He was the first openly gay minister in Canada.  
Mark was alert, hilarious, passionate, fierce, brilliant,  
and a maestro of languages. Born in 1953, he lived  
until 1988, when AIDS ended his life at the age of 35.

**Sermon**

Rev. Hank Peirce

**Hymn 246**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**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.***

*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**

*By Candlelight*  
Traditional carol, lyrics by Diane Taraz  
Diane Taraz, voice and dulcimer

*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.*

## **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



## **Memorials and Remembrances**

*On the first Sunday of the month, we remember  
loved ones who died that month in years past.*

John Farquhar,  
grandfather of Diane Barry, died December 12, 1917

Betsy J. Cooper,  
mother of Julie Cooper, died December 11, 1979

Emily Marie Saunders,  
mother of Carol Saunders Chamberlain,  
died December 9, 1994

Walter Lee Rowlands,  
father of Bob Rowlands, died December 14, 1995

John Randolph Clark,  
grandfather of Lori Kenschaft, died December 29, 1997

Nora Catherine Tosti,  
daughter of Barbara and Al Tosti and sister of Ian Tosti,  
died December 8, 2005

George Dooley,  
father of Brian Dooley, died December 12, 2005

Susan Morse,  
mother of Alice Panniello, died December 26, 2011

Steven T. Kilgore,  
beloved friend of John, Carolyn and Alison Hodges,  
died December 28, 2011

Stuart Greene,  
father of Sherry Greene, died December 25, 2012

Rev. Bob Hadley,  
father of Amy Hadley, died December 28, 2012

Vilma Farman,  
mother of Jessica Farman, died December 31, 2012

David Howard,  
brother of Paul Howard, died December 20, 2013

Sally Lewis,  
sister of Phil Lewis, died December 25, 2015

Olympia A. Kyricos Miserlis  
mother of Steph Miserlis, died December 11, 2016

Norman Tosti,  
brother of Al Tosti, died December 27, 2018

Carol Winter,  
sister of Alan Linov, died December 3, 2019

Alfred Mario Licea,  
father of Erica Licea Kane, died December 4, 2020

Roy Dennis Prentiss,  
father of Mara Prentiss, died December 4, 2020

Sam Berliner,  
husband of Rev. Lilia Cuervo, died December 29, 2020

James “Jimmy” Winkler,  
son of Howard and Lenore Winkler,  
died December 17, 2021

Will Mapel,  
nephew of Sue Mapel and Tracy Walton,  
cousin of Clara Mapel, died December 22, 2021

Robert Ernest Tranquada,  
father of Kate Tranquada, died December 4, 2022

Peter Prendergast,  
beloved brother of Catherine Jaffe, died December 6, 2022

Kendon Smith,  
father of Randy Smith and father-in-law of Lori Kenschaft  
died December 13, 2022

Maureen Silberman,  
mother of Jerry Silberman, died December 27, 2022

Ingeborg Elizabeth Graff  
mother of Sandy Graff, died December 24, 2023

*If you would like a loved one remembered in future months,  
contact [spokenmemorials@firstparish.info](mailto:spokenmemorials@firstparish.info)*

## **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).

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.