



Sunday Worship

First Parish

A liberal religious community, welcoming to all

First gathered 1739

December 15, 2024

Worship in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and Online

The sun rose at 7:07am and will set at 4:12pm *in sh'allah*
bringing us 9 hours, 5 minutes of sunlight,
5 minutes less than last Sunday.

The moon is waning toward the last quarter
on Sunday December 22.

On Saturday at 4:19am the sun reaches
its farthest point south of the Earth's equator,
marking the precise moment of the winter solstice
and the beginning of our winter.

In the northern hemisphere, it is the shortest day
and the longest night of the year.

Today is the third Sunday in Advent.

Sounding of the Chime

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

Prelude

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Unattributed (traditional African-American spiritual)

First Parish C Winds

Robin Baker, Stephanie Franzosa

Amy Pohl and Anne Quaadgras

Welcome and Announcements

Bill Licea-Kane

Worship Associate

Greeting Your Neighbor

Calling the Directions and Chalice Lighting

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan

Lead Minister

Hymn 225

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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



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.

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. Erica Federspiel Richmond
Parish Minister

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

Still, Still, Still
Austrian folk tune
First Parish C Winds

*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.*

The People Speak of Faith

Credo means “I believe” in Latin.

Periodically Worship Associates ask First Parish members to offer personal statements of belief.

Based on their personal experience, members speak of what they trust to be true.

Our worship service today features the credo statements of Elizabeth Hunter, Mara Prentiss, and Lyn Fulton-John.

Credo Statement

Elizabeth Hunter

Elizabeth Hunter has been a member of First Parish since 2010 and has served as a Worship Associate, a Youth Advisor, and on the Committee on Ministry and the Shared Ministry Committee and participated in many other ways. She and her husband, Jason Merrill, live with their daughter, Alice, in Davis Square. Elizabeth is the Artistic Director, Emerita of Theatre@First, Somerville's community theatre, and is currently planning a Family Gap Year for the next school year.

Hymn 231

Angels We Have Heard on High

Credo Statement

Mara Prentiss

Mara Prentiss is a fourth generation UU. She lives in Belmont with her wife, daughter, two dogs, two cats, and a kitten. She has been attending First Parish for 16 years. She is an active participant in Lectio Divina, has given a few sermons and has served on some committees.

Credo Statement

Lyn Fulton-John

Lyn Fulton-John has been part of the First Parish community since moving back to Boston seven years ago. An active member of First Parish, she is in the choir and recently took on the role of coordinator of the STAR program. She is a program manager in the Diversity Equity and Inclusion office at Harvard Medical School.

Hymn 163

For the Earth Forever Turning

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

Pat-a-Pan
Bernard de La Monnoye
First Parish C Winds

*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

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.