



Sunday Worship

First Parish

A liberal religious community, welcoming to all

First gathered 1739

December 22, 2024

A Holiday Worship Service for All Ages

in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and Online

The sun rose at 7:11am and will set at 4:15pm *in sh'allah*
bringing us 9 hours, 4 minutes of sunlight,
1 minute less than last Sunday.

The moon is waning to a new moon
on Monday December 30.

Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent.

Wednesday is Christmas Day.

The twelve days of Yule begin today.

For Jewish people around the world,

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights,

begins at sundown on Wednesday.

Sounding of the Chime

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

Prelude

In dulci jubilo

M. Praetorius adapted by J. Kobayashi

First Parish Bell Choir

Jennifer Kobayashi - director

Anne Cross

James Fleming

Katherine Fleming

Carolyn Hodges

John Hodges

Andrew Kobayashi

Yanni Peri-Okonny

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Stevie Carmody

Minister of Religious Education

Greeting Your Neighbor

Anthem

Winter Wonderland

Felix Bernard and Richard Bernhard Smith

First Parish Children's Choir

Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting

Mary Breen

Worship Associate

Hymn 239

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Story: “The Solstice Badger”

adapted by Rev. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson
from the book by Robin McFadden

Solstice Players
led by Rev. Stevie Carmody and
Bella Jaffe, Religious Education Assistant

Homily Part I

Rev. Erica Federspiel Richmond
Parish Minister

Hymn 241

In the Bleak Midwinter

Prayer and Silent Meditation

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Lead Minister

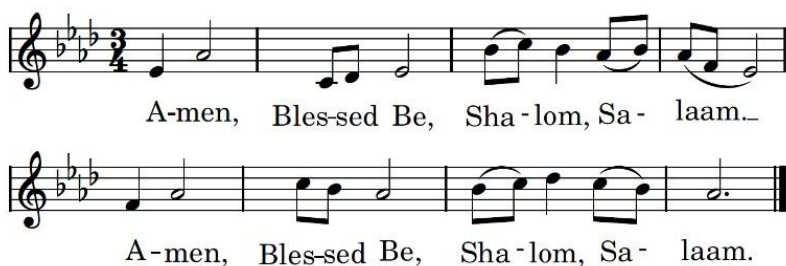
Musical Response

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



The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and suitable for congregational singing. The first staff ends with a fermata over the final note, and the second staff ends with a double bar line.

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

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

Anthem

Give Us Hope
Jim Papoulis
First Parish Choir

Story Part II

Solstice Players

Homily Part II

Rev. Erica Federspiel Richmond

Offering

Candle Music
Kenneth Seitz
Kenneth Seitz, piano

*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.*

Decorate the Tree

Rev. Erica Federspiel Richmond
"Medley of Carols"
Kenneth Seitz, piano

Hymn 235

Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly

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

Skating
Vince Guaraldi
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.*



Join us this week for our annual

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24, 2024
4:00 and 6:00pm

The Christmas Eve services,
a highlight of the season,
occur twice due to
the number of people attending.

The services feature
the lighting of candles,
organ fanfares
and children reading the ancient tale.
Rev. Marta Flanagan offers a homily.

The 4pm service is in-person only
with ASL interpretation.

The 6pm service will be in-person
and streamed on Zoom.

We welcome musical guests
the Worcester Brass Consort and also
Dr. Andrew Shenton on the organ.

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.