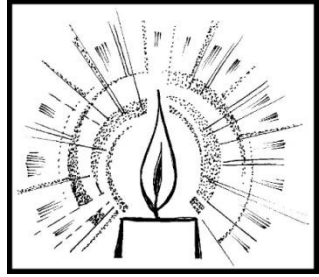


First Parish
A liberal religious community,
welcoming to all
First gathered 1739



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Services at 4 pm and 6 pm

Today the sun sets at 4:16 pm and rises tomorrow at 7:12 am.

Today we received 9 hours and 4 minutes of sunlight,
24 seconds more than last Saturday, the winter solstice.

By the summer solstice on June 20
we will receive 15 hours and seventeen minutes of daylight.

Tomorrow night is the first of the eight nights of Hannukah.

Ushers at the four o'clock service are:
Tali Avery, Liz Blumenthal, Nola Bright,
Judy Dyer, Lois Fine and Brian Miller.

Ushers at the six o'clock service are:
Arleen Kulin, Kate Lenox, Lynn Rosenbaum, and
Sara, John, Abby, and Sorrel Galantowicz.

ASL Interpreters at the four o'clock service are
Janice Cagan-Teuber and Rachel Judelson.

Prelude

Prelude on *Divinum Mysterium*

J.R. Watkinson, Meditation on *The Infant King*

Desmond Ratcliffe, Chorale Prelude on *In dulci jubilo*

J. S. Bach

Andrew Shenton, guest organist

Lighting of the Chalice and Ringing of the Bell

Caroline Steuart, chalice lighter at 4 pm

*The historic First Parish bell is struck
nine and then four times
for the nine hours and four minutes of sunlight today.
The church bell was saved from the church fire in 1975.*

*The chalice is a symbol of our liberal faith
dating to the heresies of Jan Hus
in sixteenth-century Czechoslovakia.
Jan Hus welcomed all to the communion table
and spoke not in Latin but in the people's tongue.
The chalice of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
was also a symbol of safety for refugees of Nazi Europe.*

*The silver bowl we use as our chalice
Dates from 1852 and was used by
The Frit Congregational Church of West Cambridge,
Earlier names of First Parish and of Arlington.*

Hymn 253

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Lo, humble shepherds, hasting to his cradle,
leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.
We, too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps;
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Greetings

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan
Lead Minister
inspired by E.B. White
in *The New Yorker*, December 20, 1952

Passing of Peace and Joy

Musical Interlude

In Natali Domini
Michael Praetorius
Worcester Brass Ensemble

Prayer

Rev. Erica Richmond
Parish Minister

Offering

Coventry Carol
arr. Clark
Worcester Brass Ensemble

*The full amount of your gifts will support the work of **Renewal House**, a domestic violence shelter for individuals in crisis and their children. Since 1980 Renewal House has provided temporary emergency shelter and advocacy services as part of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry.*

To donate by credit card, debit card, or bank account using your smartphone text:

FPUU RENEWAL to 73256.

Then follow the directions in the texts you receive.

Homily

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan

Lessons and Carols

I Expectancy

Luke 2:1-12

read by Anders Breck at 4:00 pm

read by Zibi Kloss at 6:00 pm

Hymn 237

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds,
 in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the king of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east
 beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the king of Israel.

And by the light of that same star,
Three magi came
 from country far;
To seek a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the king of Israel.

II Glory Be!

Luke 2:13-20
read by Rose Balkam at 4:00 pm
read by Lexx Kloss at 6:00 pm

Hymn 244

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will,
from heaven the news we bring."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on
by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
comes round the age of gold:
When peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Musical Offering

Canzona per sonare, No. 2
Giovanni Gabrieli
Worcester Brass Ensemble

III Completely Up to Us

“The Christmas Story”
by Robin Richstone
read by Rev. Stevie Carmody
Minister of Religious Education

Hymn 228

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed;
So may we when life turns hard
find in love our stay and guard.

Shepherds came to see this wonder,
and to kneel in holy awe
At that lowly stable manger
where the infant lay on straw;
So may we this happy morn
honor every child that's born.

In that happy Christmas spirit,
hear the angels from on high
Sing their ancient salutations:
joy's a gift you cannot buy.
So may we, with hearts that sing,
share the truth this season bring

Musical Offering

Ein natus est Emmanuel
Michael Praetorius
Worcester Brass Ensemble

Candle Lighting Ceremony

*Each person in turn lights the candle of the
one beside them until all the candles are lit.*

Musical Offering during Candle Lighting

Interlude on the *Coventry Carol*
W. S Lloyd-Webber
Andrew Shenton, guest organist

Hymn 251

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Child of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Hymn 245

Joy to the World!

Joy to the World! The Word is come:
Let earth with praises ring.
Let every heart prepare a room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! Now gladness reigns:
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
Let righteousness its glories show
As far as love is found,
As far as love is found,
As far, as far, as love is found.

Closing Words

Postlude

Postlude on *Adeste Fideles*
Eric Thiman
Andrew Shenton, organist

*Thank you for worshipping at First Parish this evening!
You may depart during the postlude.*

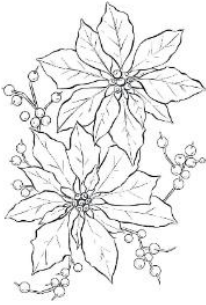
*All are welcome to worship every Sunday at 10am
in the sanctuary or online.*

Tonight's Musicians



The Worcester Brass Consort, founded and directed by Dr. Douglas Weeks, is comprised of professional brass players from Eastern and Central Massachusetts. The ensemble has performed throughout New England and presented programs at the Worcester Art Museum, Mechanics Hall, St. Paul's Cathedral, WPI's Alden Hall, The College of the Holy Cross, WGBH Radio. For several years it appeared with the Worcester Mastersingers at their annual Boar's Head program. Individually, its members perform or have performed with major regional orchestras in New England. The director, Douglas Weeks, is professor emeritus of music at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Andrew Shenton is a scholar, prize-winning author, performer, educator, consultant, cultural historian, and administrator based in Boston, Massachusetts. He currently serves as Professor of Music, James R. Houghton Scholar of Sacred Music and Director, Master of Sacred Music Program at Boston University. Born in England, his first professional music training was at The Royal College of Music in London, where he studied under a scholarship from The Royal College of Organists. Dr. Shenton has a master's degree in organ performance from Yale and holds the Fellowship diploma of the Royal College of Organists. He has toured in Europe and the US as a conductor, recitalist, and clinician, and his three solo organ recordings have received international acclaim. In addition to diplomas in both piano and organ Dr. Shenton holds the Choir Training diploma of the Royal College of Organists. A noted choral conductor, Dr. Shenton has numerous recording and producing credits notably with the Navona label. He maintains an active performance career because he believes it is important that any scholarly engagement with the arts is not divorced from its creation and performance.



Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias are donated each year
by members and friends of First Parish

In loving memory of
Leonard Julian Rothman, 1925-2024

In honor of
Lorna Sperling and Izzie Rubin

Shay Crawford
in memory of my mother,
Elizabeth Louise Crawford
who passed away on November 28, 2024

Honoring the cherished memory of
my dear friend Christine Gallery.

Anthony Benedetti
in remembrance of my father
Tony Benedetti
who died Thursday, December 12, 2024

The Dyer Family

In memory of Christmases past with
my parents, Rose and Jim Lenox

In honor of my parents
Marie and Cesar Gomez

In honor of
Betty Sharp Duffy, (December 26, 1927- December 26, 2013)
and Charles W. Duffy (March 5, 1928- Dec 13, 2010),
Parents of Charlie Duffy
by Marta Flanagan

Jim Jolley for
my mother, Yolanda A. Jolley

In memory of Rachel Masson,
missing you this holiday season

From Anthony, Christa, Lucas & Toby
in memory of beloved grandparents:
Rose, Mike, Joe, Stella, Laura,
Tony, Dorothy, Louis, and Patti.

In honor of
Gilda Bergman Stinson

In honor of
Ed Stinson and Ed Bergman

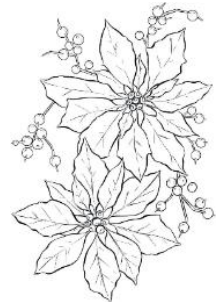
Annie Homza
to honor her parents Ron and Mary Homza

Bill and Peggy Gardiner
In appreciation of all
who keep our congregation going
from day to day

In memory of
Mother and Grandmother
and Louise Strayhorn

In honor of
Boyd, Barbara and Dana Rasmussen

*You are welcome to take
your poinsettias home
following the 6pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight service.*



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

Life at First Parish

www.firstparish.info

First Parish is a liberal religious community witnessing to another way to be and act in our time. We are committed to spiritual growth within ourselves, side by side companionship of one another and turning outward in our work in the world.

First Parish is a meeting place for many in the area. When the meetinghouse was closed due to COVID, our sanctuary was used by FoodLink to distribute food to the hungry. Many community music groups perform here. Social Justice groups organize within our walls. Each Sunday we give half our offering to good causes in the community. To date we have donated more than \$200,000.

With more than 400 adult members, 75 children and 45 youth, First Parish is bustling and committed community. Check out our website www.firstparish.info and join us for Sunday worship at 10 am in the meetinghouse or online.

First Parish operates with the generous support and leadership of many volunteers, staff and an ordained ministry team of Rev. Marta Flanagan as Lead Minister, Rev. Erica Richmond as Parish Minister, and Rev. Stevie Carmody as Minister of Religious Education.

Religious Education at First Parish

Religious Education for children, in grades PreK through Seven, meets during Sunday worship. The Nursery is open for babies and toddlers. Carefully selected curriculum, based on Unitarian Universalist values, encourages the children to think beyond themselves, to delve deeper into spiritual and theological ideas, and to connect with trusted adults with whom they can share their thoughts. Children are given the tools and resources with which to answer their religious questions, study the natural world, and ponder the mystery and awe of the universe.

Middle and High School teens meet on Sunday evenings. We offer a comprehensive Sexuality Education program (OWL) for our 7th graders and Coming of Age program for those in 8th grade. Our high school youth group program is based on a Teen Empowerment model in which the teens elect officers, collectively make decisions about the content of their weekly gatherings, serve others, worship together, and build strong bonds with their peers. Please contact Rev. Stevie Carmody, Minister of Religious Education, with questions (stevie.carmody@firstparish.info).

Music at First Parish

There are many musical opportunities at First Parish, and new members are welcome. We have an active Adult Choir and instrumental opportunities throughout the year. To join our email lists, please email music@firstparish.info and let us know your musical interests.

Our Adult Choir sings most Sundays from September-June. We explore a wide variety of music. We are glad to welcome new members (grade 9 to adult). January is a particularly good time to join. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm and meet at 9:00 am on Sundays for a warm-up rehearsal. Please contact the First Parish Music Director, Daniel Parsley, if you would like to join us (daniel.parsley@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), 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.