



Sunday Worship

First Parish

A liberal religious community, welcoming to all

First gathered 1739

January 12, 2025

Worship in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and Online

The sun rose at 7:13am and will set at 4:33pm *in sh'allah*
bringing us 9 hours, 20 minutes of sunlight,

8 minutes more than last Sunday.

The full moon is tomorrow.

Sounding of the Chime

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

Prelude

Easy Does It
Kenneth Seitz
Kenneth Seitz, piano

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Erica Richmond
Parish Minister

Greeting Your Neighbor

Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting

Rev. Erica Richmond

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.

Adopted by the members of First Parish Arlington MA
March 28, 2010

Song 19

Sacred Space

Music by Rafael Scarfullery

Words by First Parish member Diane Taraz (Shriver)

Time for All Ages

Rev. Stevie Carmody

Minister of Religious Education

As children leave for religious education we sing:

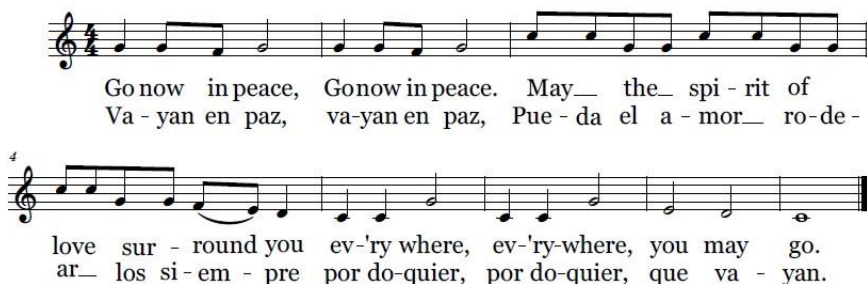
Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the spirit of love surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

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, Go now 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

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.
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

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

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

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

Offering

Peace
Kevin Siegfried
First Parish Choir

*This Sunday half of your offering supports
Women's Lunch Place of Boston, MA.
Women's Lunch Place is
a daytime shelter and advocacy center in Boston
dedicated to helping women experiencing
homelessness, hunger and poverty.
They offer healthy meals, essentials,
and one-on-one assistance*

*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.*

Song 9

Immortal Love
Composed by First Parish Music Director Emeritus
Kenneth Seitz

Introduction

Sibylle Bosslet, First Parish Member

Anthem

By Gentle Powers

Sermon

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Lead Minister

Hymn

By Gentle Powers

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, original lyrics in German

Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

Eckhard Becker, translation

Siegfried Fietz, melody

By Gentle Powers faithfully surrounded,
Protected wondrously, consoled by grace,
That's how I long to live these days together,
Close by your side, to start the coming year;

Our hearts are tortured even now by evil days,
The burdens of the past are hard to bear,
Oh Lord, grant our scared souls the salvation,
Therefore You have created us and saved.

And if You pass the heavy cup of suffering,
The bitter chalice, filled to the highest brim,
Then we will take it, grateful without trembling
Out of Your good and so beloved hand.

But if You will grant us once more the joy to see
This world, the splendor of its beaming sun,
Then we will surely all the past remember
And our whole lives will be one with You.

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 Passing Thought
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.*

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 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.