



Sunday Worship

First Parish

A liberal religious community, welcoming to all

First gathered 1739

May 18, 2025

Worship in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and Online

The sun rose at 5:20am and will set at 8:02pm *in sh'allah*
bringing us 14 hours, 42 minutes of sunlight,
15 minutes more than last Sunday.

The moon is waning toward the last quarter on Tuesday.

Following worship today is the annual meeting of
the membership of First Parish.

All members are entitled to elect officers, hear updates,
vote on next year's budget, and vote on whether to designate
Lead Minister Rev. Marta Flanagan "Minister Emerita."

Marta is retiring on June 8.

In the next month an Interim Lead Minister will be hired by
the elected Parish Committee.

This week we welcomed back Parish Minister
Rev. Erica Richmond who has been on parental leave
following the birth of DJ on January 27.

Sounding of the Chime

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

Prelude

Indian Territory-Massachusetts

Dawn Avery, composer

First Parish Intergenerational Orchestra

The First Parish Music Committee, Social Justice Committee Indigenous Justice Working Group, and Dr. Daniel Parsley, Music Director, commissioned *Indian Territory* to be premiered today by First Parish Intergenerational Orchestra.

This work serves as an acknowledgment to those Indigenous peoples on whose land the ensemble performs. Grounded in the history of this land through the vibration of sound, the performers recite the name of the Massachusetts nation who continue to live in the area today.

The ancestral lands of the Massachusetts Tribe, whose name means “at the great hill,” are in and around present-day Boston, including the Blue Hills and Arlington. The Massachusetts people value their connection to the land, respecting the natural world through the practice of sustainable living, and maintenance of traditional practices. Despite severe losses, the Massachusetts have persevered and continue to maintain their cultural identity and traditions.

This work has been re-orchestrated and rewritten from an earlier work entitled *Indian Territory - Cincinnati* that Dr. Parsley conducted.

Composer Dawn Avery writes, “Scored for chamber orchestra, the work begins with sounds of the ancestors with sounds of blowing air and harmonics reminiscent of the spirits riding in the wind. A flowing ostinato by the violas and clarinet represents the perseverance and sustainability of Indian peoples, while the use of *col legno*, *battuto* ricochet (bouncing the bow on the wood side of the stick) is used as an Indigenous sonic indicator of native rattles. Blocked Harmonics are featured as short reminders to pause and listen to the ancestors. Before writing this piece, I dreamt part of the opening melody. Its proud strength is meant to welcome us all by acknowledging those who came before us and the ancestors who remain with us.”

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Lead Minister

Greeting Your Neighbor

Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting

Lillian Povey, Worship Associate

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.

Mission Statement
adopted by the members of First Parish Arlington MA
March 28, 2010

Hymn 149

Lift Every Voice and Sing
a.k.a. the Negro National Anthem

Whatever our race, gender identity, class or
background, we sing in solidarity with those
who have known times of great trial all the holding
onto and fighting for the dream of another way.

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.

Celebrations and Concerns

Jeanne Feeley
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

“Largo” from
Four Seasons
Antonio Vivaldi
Robin Baker, flute; Emily Kaplan, bass flute

Prayer and Silent Meditation

Rev. Erica 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



Offering

Benediction: When the Recall Sounds

Jennifer Kobayashi

First Parish Choir

“Benediction: When the Recall Sounds’ is a piece I wrote for Marta setting her favorite benediction to music. The UUlations have performed it several times for the December Embracing the Darkness service. I have created a version for the choir so that Marta, our lead minister for 16 years, can hear it again.”

-- Jennifer Kobayashi

When the recall sounds
and the shadows fall, may we have
hearts unembittered by all we have suffered
and uncorrupted by all we have enjoyed...
and be at the last remembered and
cherished as those who have loved greatly.

- Dr. Vivien Pomeroy,
a 19th century Unitarian minister

*This Sunday half of the offering supports the
Massachusetts Bail Fund.*

*The Massachusetts Bail Fund (MBF) pays bail
to secure freedom from pre-trial incarceration
so that those who cannot afford their bail
can be in their community to fight their case.*

*Pre-trial freedom allows individuals, families, and
communities to stay productive, together, and stable.*

*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. If you would like your entire
offering to support your pledge,
indicate “pledge” on your check or envelope.*

Reading

Hymn 15

The Lone Wild Bird

The Last Sermon

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan

Having served as First Parish's Lead Minister for the last 16 years, Marta is retiring from full-time settled parish ministry. This is the last sermon she is preaching as Lead Minister. Her last Sunday at First Parish is June 8.

Hymn 368

Now Let Us Sing

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

Pavane for Two

Kenneth Seitz

Robin Baker and Emily Kaplan, flutes; Kenneth Seitz, piano

*Our postlude is the concluding passage of our
common worship.
All are asked to remain seated during the postlude.*

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.