

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, March 16, 2025

**The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
Landrum**
Minister

**Rev. Susan
Suchocki Brown**
Sabbatical Minister

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration, Publicity,
Membership

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Felix Freeman
Tech Assistant

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Brendon Chetwynd
President

Trisha Guditz
Vice President

Bill Froberg
Treasurer

Johanna Pyle
Clerk

*First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation.
We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people into our community.*

Large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher.
Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the Sanctuary.

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church.
In the Sanctuary, several back rows with accessible seating are "mask-required."

FPC is on the web at fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.

March 16, 2025: 10:00 a.m.

Gathering

Prelude "D'un Vieux Jardin" Trevor Berens
Lili Boulanger Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements Ann Sadler, lay minister

Introit "Sweetness in March" FPC Choir
Catherine Young Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Drip, tap, drip, maple syrup sap,
Drip, tap, drip, hear it coming,
Spring is coming, sweetness in March.

Opening Words Ann Sadler

Chalice Lighting Ann Sadler

* **Hymn #347** "Gather the Spirit" Trevor Berens

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation**

Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.	From all that dwell below the skies let words of love and peace arise.
This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.	Let joyful songs of praise be sung. through every land, by every tongue.

Land Acknowledgement June McKnight, Worship Committee Chair

Joys and Sorrows Ann Sadler, lay minister

Joys and Sorrows is a time for the things on our hearts and minds to be heard by the gathered community. If you would like a follow-up call by a lay minister or the minister, email caring@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Prayer or Meditation Rev. Susan Suchocki Brown

* *Please rise in body or in spirit*

* **Hymn**

“Loosen, Loosen”
Aly Halpert

Trevor Berens

Loosen, loosen, baby,
You don't have to carry
The weight of the world in your muscles
and bones,
Let go, let go, let go.

Holy breath—
And holy name—
Will you ease,
Will you ease this pain?

Exploring

Reading

Chelan Harkin Shana Garr, worship committee

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with **RIA House**.
You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church, at
fpc-stow-acton.org/donate, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

“Cuando el pobre nada tiene”
Jose Antonio Oliver

FPC Choir

When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;
when the wounded offer others strength and healing:
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When compassion gives consolation to the suffering,
when expectation brings to birth hope that was lost;
when we choose love, not the hatred all around us;
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness,
when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth,
when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble,
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings,
when the nations work to change war into peace,
when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor,
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

– Translation: Rev. Martin A. Seltz

Sermon Ancient Women's voices: the Aztec goddess as motivation
Rev. Susan Suchocki Brown

Returning

* **Hymn #354** "We Laugh, We Cry" Trevor Berens

* **Benediction** Rev. Susan Suchocki Brown

* **Closing Song**

Peace be with you 'til we meet again!
As life lays its task before you,
keep love's banner floating o'er you.
Peace be with you 'till we meet again.

Postlude Sonata in E Minor, II. Andante Trevor Berens
Florence Price

Greet Your Neighbor

** Please rise in body or in spirit*