

Sunday December 18, 2022: 10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude *Carol of the Bells* Matteo Faso

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Opening Words Marissa Evans,
adapted from words by Nancy Woods Acting Director of Religious Ed.

Advent Candle and Chalice Lighting Marissa Evans,
adapted from words by Rev. Edwin Lane Acting Director of Religious Ed.

Prologue: First Parish Church

* **Hymn #1063** *Winter Solstice Chant*

* **Covenant**

Love is the spirit of this church,
and service its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.

* **Affirmation**

From all that dwell below the skies
let words of love and peace arise.
Let joyful songs of praise be sung.
through every land,
by every tongue.

Meg Rivers-Winter,
Administration and Membership

Centering

Scene 1: The Yule Log

* **Hymn #235** *Deck the Hall*

Scene 2: First Parish Church

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

Joys and Sorrows

Marcia Rising, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation *Winter Solstice Meditation*

by Christine C. Robinson The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Exploring

**Scene 3: Cornwall, England; Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada);
Scandinavia**

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with FPC Guest Table
Checks may be made to “First Parish Church” or donate online at
<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate> or by text to (978) 310-3309.

Offertory *Christmas Memories* Sanghee Kim, instrument
by J. Martin

Scene 4: Brighton, England

Returning

Conclusion: Somewhere Looking Over the Earth

* **Carol** *We Wish You a Happy Solstice* (words in insert)

* **Benediction** *i thank You God for this amazing*
by e. e. cummings The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* **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 *Angels We Have Heard on High and Away in a Manger*
Matteo Faso

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*



Thank you to:

Zoom Host Sharon Brownfield, Ushers Nancy Cataldo and Judy Holmes
Matteo Faso, Coffee Hour Host Josh Ledwell,
and to our staff and leadership

Our flowers today are given by
John Kendrick, in honor of his mother Maxine Kendrick.
December 18 would have been her 106th birthday.



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that this service is being held by a community that gathers on the stolen traditional lands of the Massachusett, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People. We pay respect to those Indigenous Peoples who lost their lives in the colonization of this land and recognize that these Indigenous tribes are still today facing violations of sovereignty, territory, and water. We also give thanks for the Earth we walk upon, the waters, the lifegiving plants, and all the Earth's creatures, as well as the winds, sun, moon, and stars. We recognize this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.

Connect with First Parish Church

Sign our visitor's log at tinyurl.com/visitfpc
Services Sunday at 10 am, in person and online
Subscribe to

The Chronicle, our monthly emailed newsletter,
This Week at FPC, our weekly Friday email,
and our email groups FPC Announce and FPC Forum, all at
<https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>



FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, Dec 18, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum,
Minister
Marissa Evans, Acting Director of
Religious Education
Marie Egan, Temporary Parish
Administrator
Brad Dumont, Music Director
Sanghee Kim, Organist/Pianist

Mike Silkonis, Sexton
Ben Child, Tech Assistant
Janet Beatrice, External Publicity
Sharon Brownfield, President
Jenni Edgerton, 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.

To help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible, the ushers can provide large print orders of service and hymnals or, for people who need to step out during the service for any reason, an assisted listening device (portable radio) which works throughout the building.

On the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE

This page contains information specifically for folks joining us online!

FPC now has a closed captioning option in online services. If the Closed Captioning option is not turned on, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn it on.



Today's Zoom Host:

Hymn Lyrics

Hymn #1063:

Winter Solstice Chant

1. Children of the Earth,
we have come to sing to each other,
Sister to Brother,
songs of our Mother Earth.
2. Children of the Earth,
Autumn soon will breathe her last breath and
quick will her death bear
witness to Winter's Birth.
3. Children of the Earth,
can you feel the air getting cold as
darkness takes hold and
sleep covers Mother Earth?
4. Children of the Earth,
we have come to sit in the darkness,
breathe in the silence,
think of our Mother Earth.

Hymn #235

Deck the Hall

1. Deck the hall with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
Troll the ancient Yule tide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
2. See the blazing Yule before us, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus. Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la, la la la, la la la
While I tell of Yule tide treasure, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
3. Fast away the old year passes, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Sing we joyous, all together, Fa la la, la la la, la la la
Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Carol

We Wish You a Happy Solstice

1. We wish you a happy Solstice! We wish you a happy Solstice!
We wish you a happy Solstice and a happy new year!
- Refrain: Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.
We wish you a happy Solstice and a happy new year!
2. Oh, bring us some figgy pudding, Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding, And a cup of good cheer!
Refrain.
 3. We wish you a happy Solstice! We wish you a happy Solstice
We wish you a happy Solstice and a happy new year!

Sharing Our Gifts

If you are mailing a pledge or a donation, here is the information:

Pledges: attn: Pledge Secretary, PO Box 215, Stow MA 01775

Donations: attn: Treasurer, 353 Great Rd, Stow MA 01775

Announcements begin on next page

Plate Sharing This Month: Guest Table

FPC Guest Table serves a free monthly community dinner on the second Friday of the month. We rely on donations to fund this monthly dinner which runs about \$250 per month. Guest Table does not receive funding from the general FPC budget. We offer community members with food insecurity issues another resource and offer a chance for fellowship and community building to guests and volunteers alike.



Lyrics

Carol *We Wish You a Happy Solstice*

1. We wish you a happy Solstice! We wish you a happy Solstice!
We wish you a happy Solstice and a happy new year!

Refrain: Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.
We wish you a happy Solstice and a happy new year!

2. Oh, bring us some figgy pudding, Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding, And a cup of good cheer!
Refrain.
3. We wish you a happy Solstice! We wish you a happy Solstice
We wish you a happy Solstice and a happy new year!

Additional Announcements.

Uketarian Meetup. Unitarians and friends, bring your ukulele and join us for some fun Wednesday Dec 21, 7-9 pm in the Community Room.

FPC Minister and staff are off from December 25, 2022 – January 1, 2023

In an emergency, you can reach Rev. Cindy on her cell phone **517-879-9565**.

FPC Announcements: Sunday, December 18, 2022

Today at FPC

10 am Intergenerational Service. Sanctuary/Online

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

6:30-8:30 pm Jr. & Sr. Youth Party, Fellowship Hall

No religious education classes today: Intergenerational service.

Religious ed classes resume Jan 8, 2023, also deadline for Jr/Sr Youth to

RSVP for rock climbing

Jr & Senior Youth Holiday party, Sunday Dec 18, 6:30-8:30 pm, Hall

This Week in Religious Education

Religious ed classes resume Jan 8, 2023, also deadline for Jr/Sr Youth to

RSVP for rock climbing

Jr & Sr Youth Holiday party, Sunday Dec 18, 6:30-8:30 pm, Hall

All are welcome to the following FPC weekly events

Coffee and Chat Tuesdays 10 - 11 am

Meet at the Town Park adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!

Meditation Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 pm Hall and online

Contact meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org for more information

Peace Vigil Thursdays 5 – 6 pm

Meet between Common Road and Great Road in front of FPC.

Contact Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net for more info.

Bridge Group Fridays 1-3:30 pm Community Room.

Contact Hector Constantzos Hconstantzos@gmail.com for more information.

This Week at FPC: December 19-24

Tuesday	Coffee and Chat 10 – 11 am. Town Gazebo Board of Trustees Meeting, 7-9:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	Uketarian Meetup, 7-9 pm, Community Room Meditation, 7:30-8:30 pm, Hall/Online
Thursday	Peace Vigil, 5-6 pm, in front of FPC Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary
Friday	Bridge Group 1-3:30 pm, Community Room/Vestry
Saturday	Return Guest at Your Table Boxes Christmas Eve Early Service, 4-5 pm, Sanctuary/Online Extended Prelude before Service 8:45-9 pm, Sanctuary/Online Christmas Eve Later Service, 9-10 pm, Sanctuary/Online
Sunday	No services.

Christmas Eve Services in the Sanctuary or online

Our 4 PM Christmas Eve Family Service will feature interactive moments, stories, and carols, finishing with our traditional candle-lighting and singing of “Silent Night.”

Our 9 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service features traditional carols and anthems, paired with readings and the age-old story of the birth of Jesus. Music provided by the FPC Adult Choir, under the direction of Brad Dumont; organist/pianist Sanghee Kim; and guest musicians. An extended prelude of Christmas music will begin at 8:45 PM, and we will finish with our traditional candle-lighting and singing of “Silent Night.”



Join Worship by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>
Meeting ID: 9990 7077 00266 Passcode: 01775
Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



Coming in 2023

Quaker Style Service. Sun Jan 1, 10 am Community Room.

Book Group. Jan. 3, 7pm online. *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.

Open Choir. Sun Jan 8. Practice at 9 am. Sing at 10. Childcare provided.

Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry. Jan 8 & 22. Noon. online.

11th Hour for Climate Change. Wed Jan 11, 11 am. Churches and communities across the Commonwealth are ringing bells for 11 minutes to signify the climate crisis we face. Meet us in front of the church.

FPC Guest Table. Fri Jan 13, Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm. Doors open at 5. All are welcome – no charge.

Saturday Morning Breakfast. Sat Jan 14, Fellowship Hall. 7:30 am Coffee, 8 am breakfast. \$6. Mike Block discusses “A Year Sailing the East Coast of the USA”. RSVP Jeff Brown, jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com

Acton Chorus Concert: Snow Angel. Sat. Jan 14, Fellowship Hall. 7:30 pm. Tickets at www.actoncommunitychorus.org/events

Small Group Ministry Registration. Due Sun Jan 15. SGM is a network of groups of 8-10, led by a trained facilitator, who meet for two hours monthly for one year. SGM’s purpose: promote the spiritual growth of participants and strengthen connections between members. Meeting format: chalice-lighting, general check-in, presentation of topic, discussion.

RJTF Tour of Jackson Homestead in Newton. Sun Jan 15. Carpool after service. Learn more about the homestead’s ties to the underground railroad. Open to everyone in the community. RSVP junebmcknight@yahoo.com.

CityReach Clothing Drive. Sun Jan 15. See article in *The Chronicle* for needed items or go to <https://tinyurl.com/fpc23cityreach>

Refresh, Renew, Revitalize: Vespers Service. Thu Jan 26, 6pm Comm Rm