

Sunday December 4, 2022

Gathering

Prelude *Air I* Sanghee Kim, organ
F. Handel

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Marcia Rising, Lay Minister

Introit *Jazz Alleluia* FPC Open Choir

Opening Words

Advent Candle Lighting

Chalice Lighting

*** Hymn #226** *People Look East*

***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.

Centering

Stewardship Testimonial Russel Hart, Religious Education Chair

Message for All Ages “*Long Ago on a Silent Night*” by Julie Berry
read by Marissa Evans, Acting Director of Religious Education

Going Forth with the Light

World AIDS Day Recognition

Joys and Sorrows Susie O Brien, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation

*** Hymn #55** *Dark of Winter*

Plate Sharing Introduction

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with 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.

Anthem *Keep Your Lamps* FPC Open Choir
arr. by André Thomas

Sermon *Wonder: The Historical Jesus*
The Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

*** Hymn #233** *Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*

*** Benediction**

*** 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 Carol Sing

We will start by singing 1-2 hymns selected from the hymnal and then invite you to call out hymn numbers that you would like to sing.



Thank you to:
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Lisa Rydin & Jamison House, Ushers
FPC Adult Choir and FPC Open Choir
Suzie and Kevin O'Brien, Coffee Hour Hosts
and to our staff and leadership



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, December 4, 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 Online Helpers. Zoom Host: Kim Kinnear

Hymn Lyrics

Hymn #226 *People Look East*

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course and flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Hymn #55 *Dark of Winter*

1. Dark of winter, soft and still,
your quiet calm surrounds me.
Let my thoughts go where they will;
ease my mind profoundly.
And then my soul will sing a song,
a blessed song of love eternal.
Gentle darkness, soft and still,
bring your quiet to me.
2. Darkness, soothe my weary eyes,
that I may see more clearly.
When my heart with sorrow cries,
comfort and caress me.
And then my soul may hear a voice,
a still, small voice of love eternal.
Darkness, when my fears arise,
let your peace flow through me.

Hymn #233

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

1. Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella,
bring a torch and quickly run.
Christ is born, good folk of the village,
Christ is born and Mary's calling,
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother,
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is her child.
2. 2 Come and see within the stable,
come and see the Holy one,
come and see the lovely Jesus,
brown his brow, his cheeks are rosy.
Hush! Hush! Quietly now he slumbers,
Hush! Hush! Quietly now he sleeps.

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.



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.

FPC Announcements: Sunday December 4, 2022

Today at FPC

9 am Rehearsal Open Choir, Sanctuary. Childcare provided.

10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online

10:15 am Religious Education students dismissed from Sanctuary to classes.

11 am Carol Sing after Service, Sanctuary

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

12 pm FPC Arts Coalition Meeting, Community Room.

Open Choir. Once a month. Rehearse at 9 am in Sanctuary. Childcare provided. Sing at 10 am service All are welcome. Next open choir January 8

Carol Sing. Remain in the Sanctuary after the service to join us in singing Christmas Carols.

This Week in Religious Education

Classes are dismissed from Sanctuary

PreK-1st and 2nd-5th grade talk about the wonder of babies and new life, with playful stories and games about the joys and challenges that babies bring.

Junior Youth visit Acton Congregational Church to participate in the worship service and talk about Christianity with the youth of that community.

Senior Youth (Coming of Age) dive into topics privilege and social justice in the third session of this year-long rite of passage program.

Upcoming Events

Friday December 16, 6:30-8:30 pm. Club UU Party, Junior Youth Holiday Party, Parents Social Night.

Sunday December 18, 6:30-8:30 pm. Senior Youth holiday party.

This Week at FPC: December 5-December 10

- Monday** Sounds of Stow Rehearsal, 7-9 pm, Hall
- Tuesday** Coffee and Chat 10 – 11 am. Town Gazebo
Religious Education Meeting, 7-9 pm, Community Room
Book Group, 7-8 pm, Online
- Wednesday** Membership Committee, 7-9 pm, Online
Meditation, 7-9 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
Guest Table, 5:30-6:30 pm, Doors open at 5, Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday's Service, December 11, 10 am Sanctuary/Online "Wonder and Glory: Vivaldi Gloria" – Brad Dumont, Music Director; FPC Adult Choir; & Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This special music-filled Sunday service is meant as a gift to the larger community. Under the direction of our music director, Brad Dumont, with guest soloists and accompanied by string players from the community, our choir will perform Vivaldi's joyous Gloria and other seasonal tunes woven throughout the service.



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



Refunds will be given for tickets to the cancelled New Revival Coffee House Thea Hopkins Concert. Upcoming New Revival Coffee House concerts on:

February 4, 2023, 440 Gypsy Jazz,
March 4, 2023, Heather Maloney.

Additional Announcements. Live links in *This Week at FPC* Friday email

Holiday Gift Drive. All presents were due by yesterday. Contact elves at gift-drive@fpc-stow-acton.org w questions.

Book Group. Tuesday, December 6, 7-8 pm Online. *Book of Hope: A survival Guide for Trying Times* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson. Contact sharonbrownfield@gmail.com

Guest Table. Friday, December 9, 5:30-6:30 pm Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 5 pm. All Welcome. No charge. Menu: shells and meatballs (vegetarian, gluten-free and dairy-free options).

11th Hour Climate Bell. Sunday, December 11, outside FPC after the service. On the eleventh day of each month at 11AM, churches and communities across the Commonwealth are ringing bells for 11 minutes to signify the climate crisis we face

Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry. Sunday, December 11, noon. Parlor/Online. Gathering to read a poem and see where it takes us.
<https://tinyurl.com/FPC-SCTP> Live link in Friday-email.


Women's Annual Cookie Swap. Sun Dec 13, 7 pm Community Rm
If you want to swap cookies, bring 3 dozen, NO NUTS. If you don't, join us for poems and stories read by Ann Sadler plus yummy appetizers (please RSVP to Diane Miller at millerdiane@comcast.net

FPC Jazz Band. Saturday December 17, 1:30 pm
New Horizons, 400 Hemenway St. Marlborough

Guest at Your Table. UUSC program. Boxes to be returned at Christmas Eve Services. Additional box templates available in Connector lobby.

Christmas Eve Services, 4 pm and 9 pm. No Christmas Day Services.

Check Friday email: *This Week at FPC* or follow FPC Announce for details of concerts fellow FPC members are participating in this month



Yes, it is that time again. When we ask members and friends to indicate their financial intentions for the next church year. First Parish Church is a self-sustaining congregation that relies on the generosity of members and friends to fund about 70% of our budget. Our goal as always is 100% member participation in our annual stewardship campaign. Our focus for the upcoming year will be to:

- Strengthen our music, art, and worship.
- Nurture our new staff through development opportunities.
- Deepen our commitment to our children and youth via strong RE programming.

Your pledge is a statement of intention to support FPC with a financial contribution. FPC establishes its annual budget based on amounts pledged by Members & Friends. However should circumstances change, you are free to amend your pledge at any time.

We are thankful for the FPC Community that sustains, supports, and celebrates with us. Join us in these goals by making a financial pledge at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/stewardship-pledge>

Or by submitting the pledge sheet on the back

Stewardship Pledge to First Parish Church of Stow and Acton

Our primary Stewardship goal this year is 100% member participation in the pledge drive.

Name _____
Date _____

I/We:


- ☐ Pledge \$_____ to First Parish Church for the next fiscal year (July 2023 - June 2024).
- ☐ Wish to make the above pledge a Renewing Pledge, which will carry over from year to year with an automatic annual increase of _____% per year.
- ☐ Request a Face-to-Face Stewardship meeting (especially recommended for those who are new to FPC).

Comments (optional):

Your pledge is a statement of intention to support FPC with a financial contribution.

FPC establishes its annual budget based on the amounts pledged by its Members and Friends.

Thank-you for your Generosity to FPC!



Yes, it is that time again. When we ask members and friends to indicate their financial intentions for the next church year. First Parish Church is a self-sustaining congregation that relies on the generosity of members and friends to fund about 70% of our budget. Our goal as always is 100% member participation in our annual stewardship campaign. Our focus for the upcoming year will be to:

- Strengthen our music, art, and worship.
- Nurture our new staff through development opportunities.
- Deepen our commitment to our children and youth via strong RE programming.

Your pledge is a statement of intention to support FPC with a financial contribution. FPC establishes its annual budget based on amounts pledged by Members & Friends. However should circumstances change, you are free to amend your pledge at any time.

We are thankful for the FPC Community that sustains, supports, and celebrates with us. Join us in these goals by making a financial pledge at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/stewardship-pledge>

Or by submitting the pledge sheet on the back

** Rise in Body or Spirit*

Stewardship Pledge to First Parish Church of Stow and Acton

Our primary Stewardship goal this year is 100% member participation in the pledge drive.

Name _____

Date _____

I/We:

☐ Pledge \$_____ to First Parish Church for the next fiscal year (July 2023 - June 2024).

☐ Wish to make the above pledge a Renewing Pledge, which will carry over from year to year with an automatic annual increase of _____% per year.

☐ Request a Face-to-Face Stewardship meeting (especially recommended for those who are new to FPC).

Comments (optional):

Your pledge is a statement of intention to support FPC with a financial contribution.

FPC establishes its annual budget based on the amounts pledged by its Members and Friends.

Thank-you for your Generosity to FPC!

** Rise in Body or Spirit*