

January 29, 2023: 10:00 AM

**Gathering**

**Prelude** *Prelude* in E flat Major Sanghee Kim, piano  
by H. Smart (organ)

**Land Acknowledgement & Welcome** Ann Sadler,  
Lay Minister

**Greet Your Neighbor**

**Introit** *Love Is Love Is Love Is Love* FPC Adult Choir  
by Abbie Betinis

**Opening Words** "The Heart of Our Faith" by Monica Jacobsen-  
Tennessee

**Chalice Lighting**

\* **Hymn #113** *Where is Our Holy Church*

\* **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**

**Message for All Ages** "What Is Important?" The Rev. Dr. Landrum

**Going Forth with the Light**

**Joys and Sorrows** Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

**Prayer or Meditation** The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

\* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

**Sharing Our Gifts**

This month we share our weekly offering with Acton and Stow Area Interfaith Partnership to Support Afghan Refugees. 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** *May I Be Still* FPC Adult Choir  
Brian Tate

May I be still  
And feel the calm inside me,  
May I be still  
And let the spirit guide me  
May I be still  
And hear the voice of love  
Descending from above  
And filling me until  
I am still.

Make me an instrument of thy peace,  
Bless me that I might have  
Blessed release.

May I be clear  
And seek the truth inside me  
May I be clear  
And let compassion guide me  
May I be clear  
Come spirit, and dispel  
The darkness where I dwell,  
With no more doubt or fear  
I am clear (may I be clear)  
I am still (may I be still)  
I am silent (may I be silent)  
I am still.

May I be silent  
And hear the world around me  
May I be silent  
And let the light surround me  
May I be silent  
And listen to my heart  
Especially the part  
That speaks of peace to me  
Silently.

**Reading** **Exploring**  
"Which Way" by Lewis Fisher  
(1922, excerpted)

\* **Hymn #145** *As Tranquil Streams*

**Sermon** "Principles and Values"  
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Returning**

\* **Hymn #1028** *The Fire of Commitment*

\* **Benediction** "Let the Center Hold" by Joe Cherry

\* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

**\* 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**

*Valsette* Sanghee Kim, piano  
by F.Borowski (piano)



Thank you to:  
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host  
Kate Imhoff and Nick Francis, Ushers  
Jeff Brown, Kirsten Chetwynd, 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](http://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, January 29, 2023

**The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum,**  
Minister  
**Marissa Evans,** Acting Director of  
Religious Education  
**Meg Rivers-Wright,**  
Administration and  
Membership  
**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](http://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: Kim Kinnear**

### Hymn Lyrics

**Hymn #113** "Where Is Our Holy Church?"

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Where is our holy church?<br>Where race and class unite<br>as equal persons in the search<br>for beauty, truth, and right. | 4 Where is our holy land?<br>Within the human soul,<br>wherever free minds truly seek<br>with character the goal.  |
| 2 Where is our holy writ?<br>Where'er a human heart<br>a sacred torch of truth has lit,<br>by inspiration taught.            | 5 Where is our paradise?<br>In aspiration's sight,<br>wherein we hope to see arise<br>ten thousand years of right. |
| 3 Where is our holy One?<br>A mighty host respond;<br>the people rise in every land<br>to break the captive's bond.          |  |

**Hymn #145** "As Tranquil Streams"

- 1 As tranquil streams that meet and merge  
and flow as one to seek the sea,  
our kindred hearts and minds unite  
to build a church that shall be free--
- 2 Free from the bonds that bind the mind  
to narrow thought and lifeless creed;  
free from a social code that fails  
to serve the cause of human need:

3 A freedom that reveres the past,  
but trusts the dawning future more;  
and bids the soul, in search of truth,  
adventure boldly and explore.

4 Prophetic church, the future waits  
your liberating ministry;  
go forward in the power of love,  
proclaim the truth that makes us free.

**Hymn #1028** "The Fire of Commitment"

1. From the light of days remembered  
burns a beacon bright and clear  
Guiding hands and hearts and spirits  
Into faith set free from fear.

Chorus: When the fire of commitment sets our mind and soul a blaze  
When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way  
When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within,  
Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin.

2. From the stories of our living rings  
a song both brave and free,  
Calling pilgrims still to witness  
to the life of liberty.
3. From the dreams of youthful vision  
comes a new, prophetic voice,  
Which demands a deeper justice  
built by our courageous choice

### 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:  
Acton and Stow Area  
Interfaith Partnership to  
Support Afghan Refugees  
(ASAIPSAR)**

This Partnership was created last year when the FPC's Asylum Seekers Task Force learned of a group of churches organizing to help Afghans being evacuated en-mass. We joined the group to form the ASAIPSAR. We've since provided food and made deliveries to newly arrived Afghan families, created

an ongoing food pantry in Lowell, and aligned with the IINE (International Institute of New England) to support a family of six in Lowell and another in Maynard. We're looking for ways to sustain this Interfaith effort and investigating how to help people in Haiti.

**This Week in Religious Education**

**PreK-1st Grade and 2nd-5th Grade:** We talk about the changing and evolving principles at the center of Unitarian Universalism. What does *your* ideal church look like? We'll brainstorm, draw, and play games related to the UU principles.

**Junior Youth (6th-8th Grade):** We're excited to welcome our friends, the Karimi family, to speak with us about Islam! Youth will have the opportunity to ask them questions and learn more about how they practice their faith as Muslims.

**Senior Youth (9th-12th Grade):** There is no class today, but youth are welcome to join the Junior Youth to learn about Islam, or help out in a younger class downstairs, or stay and listen to the sermon. Coming of Age will meet again *next* Sunday, 2/5!

**FPC Announcements: Sunday, January 29, 2023**

**Today at FPC**

10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

11:20 am RE Cottage Meeting, Community Room

**Religious Education Cottage Meetings:**

We want to hear from you about our programming for children, youth, and families! *What do you value most about the church and RE program, and what might enhance their vitality? What elements of worship and RE classes would your children be most excited about?* FPC's hour-long Cottage Meetings will pose these kinds of questions to generate reflection and visioning.

**Next  
Cottage Meetings:  
Today 1/29  
and  
Next Sunday 2/5  
after worship**

**Sign up here to join a meeting:** <https://bit.ly/recottage> and  
**fill out this companion survey:** [bit.ly/fpc-re-survey](https://bit.ly/fpc-re-survey).

**Everyone in the FPC community is encouraged to fill out this survey!**

Please also pass this on to young adults who've graduated from the RE program - we have a special virtual cottage\_meeting for youth and young adults! Participants will be entered into a raffle for \$25 gift cards when they sign up.

**Open Choir** – While we were delighted to offer childcare for the past two months for our "Open Choir" period on the first Sundays of the month, we are sadly unable to provide that going forward. The past couple of months have revealed that our list of teens interested in childcare has diminished. We will let you know if we are able to resume providing childcare. Meanwhile, we want to assure parents that you are welcome to bring your child to choir rehearsal and have them engage with toys and activities you bring during choir time if that works out okay for you and your child.

## This Week at FPC: January 30-February 4

- Mon 1/30** Assabet Food Co-op, 8am-1pm, Vestry
- Tue 1/31** Coffee and Chat\* 10-11 am, Town Gazebo  
Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!
- Wed 2/1** Meditation\* 7:30-8:30 pm, Hall/Online  
Contact [meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org) for more info.
- Thu 2/2** Peace Vigil\* 5-6 pm, in front of FPC, btwn Common & Great Rds  
Contact Neil Saunders [neilsaund@verizon.net](mailto:neilsaund@verizon.net) for more info.  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary
- Fri 2/3** Bridge Group\* 1-3:30 pm, Community Room  
Contact Hector [Hconstantzos@gmail.com](mailto:Hconstantzos@gmail.com) for more info.

\*All are welcome to these weekly FPC events

### Next Sunday's Service

Sunday, February 5, 2023

“A Theology of Love” 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary and Online

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

“God is Love” is something written on many altars and church walls across the nation, particularly Universalist ones. We know what it is to be a church built on a theology that is theistic. What does it mean to be a church built on a theology of love? This service will look back into Universalism and forward into the future in answering this question.



Join Worship by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>

Meeting ID: 999 7077 0266 Passcode: 01775

Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



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

**New Revival Coffeehouse concert** Saturday, February 4, 7:30 pm, FPC  
Tickets for *Gypsy Jazz 440* will be on sale at coffee hour today. This quartet expands the gypsy jazz tradition of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli and plays danceable swing standards from the era of Porter, Gershwin, and Goodman, as well as their own originals.

This is an opportunity to purchase tickets at the advance price of \$17 with no processing fee.  
Tickets are also online at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) for \$17 plus a small fee, and at the door for \$20.



More concert information: <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/music/coffeehouse>  
Questions: 978-274-2593 or email [coffeehouse@fpc-stow-acton.org](mailto:coffeehouse@fpc-stow-acton.org)

### **The First Annual FPC Community Art Show: CALL FOR ART**

The FPC Arts Coalition is thrilled to announce the first annual FPC Community Art Show. We are so excited to show the unique talents of our congregation and members.



ALL are welcome to participate. This is not a juried show, and we are looking forward to seeing a broad spectrum of our community artists, even those of you who might not usually refer to yourself with that label!

More details about the event and the registration form to sign up for space at the show are in the latest *This Week at FPC*. Submissions are due by February 17 and the show will take place March 17-19.