

March 5, 2023 10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude *Fantasia* Sanghee Kim, organ
J. Pachelbel

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Sharon Brownfield, President

Greet Your Neighbor

Introit *When I Rise Up* Sanghee Kim, piano
J. David Moore/words by
Wendell Berry

When I rise up let me rise up joyful like a bird
When I fall let me fall without regret like a leaf.

Opening Words "Grace Meets Us Where We Are" by Grace Haley

Chalice Lighting "We Recognize the Fragility of Life..." by Telos Whitfield

* **Hymn #16** *Tis a Gift to Be Simple*

* **Covenant** *** Affirmation**
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.
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 Marissa Evans, Acting Director of Religious Education

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation "Gentleness in Living" by Richard S. Gilbert

* **Hymn #1002** *Comfort Me*

Exploring

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

Reading from *Daring Greatly*
by Brene Brown

Plate Sharing Introduction

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with Southeast India Foundation.
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 *Outshine* FPC Adult Choir
Timothy Takach

Maybe someday, we'll find that love is enough
Maybe someday, we'll find respect
Everyday we'll fight for justice with words
Fearlessly say we won't concede
Our actions hold a mirror to
convictions we hold dear and through
it all faith keeps us strong.
And until then, stand.
And until then, insist.
Learn to affirm what is true.
Maybe someday our grace will outshine our fear
Maybe someday we'll lead with love
We'll see the day when hearts are open again
Everyday we'll listen more
Stand your ground and testify
Give strength to the oppressed and find
Your voice. Give all you have.
And after that, prove.
And after that, believe.
Let out your light as a sign.

Sermon *Vulnerability: Being All In*
The Reverend Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #1008** *When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place*

Benediction "Vulnerability is a Doorway" by Scott Tayler

* **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 'til we meet again.

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

Postlude

Für Elise
L.v.Beethoven

Sanghee Kim, Piano



Thank you to:
Deb O'Connell, Zoom Host
Marcia Allison and Jamison House, Ushers
Kevin and Susie 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, March 5, 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](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE

This page contains information specifically for folks joining us online!

1. 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.



2. Today's Zoom Host: **Deb O'Connell**

3. Hymn Lyrics:

Hymn #16 *'Tis a Gift to Be Simple*

1. 'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free,
'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.
2. When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

Hymn #1002 *Comfort Me*

1. Comfort me, comfort me, comfort me, oh my soul.
Comfort me, comfort me, comfort me, oh my soul.
2. Sing with me, sing with me, sing with me, oh my soul.
Sing with me, sing with me, sing with me, oh my soul.
3. Speak for me, speak for me, speak for me, oh my soul.
Speak for me, speak for me, speak for me, oh my soul.
4. Dance with me, dance with me, dance with me, oh my soul.
Dance with me, dance with me, dance with me, oh my soul.
5. Comfort me, comfort me, comfort me, oh my soul.
Comfort me, comfort me, comfort me, oh my soul.

Hymn #1008

When Our Heart is in a Holy Place

Chorus: When our heart is in a holy place,
When our heart is in a holy place,
We are bless'd with love and amazing grace,
When our heart is in a holy place.

1. When we trust the wisdom in each of us,
Ev'ry color ev'ry creed and kind,
And we see our faces in each other's eyes,
Then our heart is in a holy place.
2. When we tell our story from deep inside,
And we listen with a loving mind,
And we hear our voices in each other's words,
Then our heart is in a holy place.
3. When we share the silence of sacred space,
And the God of our Heart stirs within,
And we feel the power of each other's faith,
Then our heart is in a holy place.

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:
Southeast India
Foundation

For 18 years FPC has fostered and supported the Southeast India Project, which works with poor villages in the tsunami-affected area of Tamil Nadu, India and WIDE Orphanage for dalit (the caste formerly known as Untouchables) children, provides micro-lending for financing new opportunities for women, and establishes self-help

organizations, also for women. Bob Tabor (17th journey), Vicky Tabor (5th year), and Russ Hart (4th year) were there this January, revisiting WIDE Children's Home and the dalit villages.

With support from FPC and other individuals and organizations, we are continuing to sponsor children at WIDE Children's Home and distribute food to the villages. This year five more children are being sponsored by FPC families, providing these children with a healthy, safe, caring environment, as well as an education.



In rural villages, Plate Sharing contributions have helped us build balwadis (pre-schools) and toilets, drill a bore well, reclaim arable land for organic farming, support women's self-help groups to manage herds of dairy cows, and build a tailoring school for women in a tribal village. We thank you for your generous and continued support!

This
Week in
Religious
Education

Children (PreK-1st & 2nd-5th Graders):

Vulnerability: Seeking Friendship

Junior Youth (6th-8th graders): Connections between Paganism and Unitarian Universalism

Coming of Age: Personal Beliefs about the Sacred and Otherness

FPC Announcements: Sunday, March 5, 2023

Today at FPC

9-9:40 am Rehearsal for Open Choir, Sanctuary

10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

Book Group, 3/7, 7 pm, online *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong. Contact Sharon Brownfield, sharonbrownfield@gmail.com, for more information or the link.

FPC Guest Table, 3/10, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall Doors open at 5. All are welcome – no charge.

11th Hour for Climate Change, 3/11, 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.

Saturday Morning Breakfast, 3/11, Fellowship Hall 7:30 am Coffee, 8 am breakfast. \$6. Jonathan Daisy gives a talk, *A Trip to Taiwan*. RSVP jab.jeffbrown@gmail.com.

Spiritual Conversations: 3/12 and 3/26, online

You don't need to know anything about poetry to join Elizabeth Cobblah, Ilene Rudman, and Hector Constantzos for Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry. Come and engage with others through the sharing of a poem – read it, listen to it, let it take you to possible new insights, and respond to it. Such conversations have been going on at FPC twice a month for over a decade. We sincerely hope you will join us in this deeply satisfying time of connection. Contact Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com for the link.

This Week at FPC: March 6 - 11

- Tue 3/7**
- ▶ Coffee and Chat* 10-11 am, Town Gazebo at Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!
 - ▶ Book Group, 7-8 pm, Online
 - ▶ Religious Education Mtg, 7-9 pm, Community Rm
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- Wed 3/8**
- ▶ UU Journey Class #4, 7-9 pm, Parlor
 - ▶ Meditation* 7:30-8:30 pm, Hall/Online
Contact meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org for more info.
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- Thu 3/9**
- ▶ Peace Vigil* 5-6 pm, in front of FPC, btwn Common & Great Rds
Contact Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net for more info.
 - ▶ Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary
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- Fri 3/10**
- ▶ 2nd Friday Group, SGM, 9:30-11:30 am (Fellowship Hall)
 - ▶ Bridge Group* 1-3:30 pm, Community Room
Contact Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com for more info.
 - ▶ Guest Table, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
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- Sat 3/11**
- ▶ 11th Hour Climate Bell, 11:00 am, in front of FPC

*All are welcome to these [weekly FPC events](#)

Next Sunday's Service:

10:00 AM in the Sanctuary and online/phone

“Love Languages, Redux” – Rev. Megan Lynes, guest minister

Whether in personal relationships or congregational life we are in a constant dynamic dance of communication. So often we hold back important parts of ourselves to feel safe. At other times we initiate the dance, but step on toes. What relationships in your life need tweaking? What would that look like? Together we'll heighten our awareness of our own roles and expectations within personal relationships and in community life.



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

This Summer's Sunday Services: Will you lead or contribute?



The Worship Committee has started planning for FPC's summer services which will run each Sunday for the 12 weeks between June 18 and September 3. We're interested in hearing from any member of the congregation who'd be interested in leading a service or offering an idea for a service they'd like to work on with a member of our committee. Please contact Neil Saunders, Chair (neilsaund@verizon.net) with your ideas, suggestions, or questions.

FPC's Annual Spring Auction

Feeling the midwinter blues or blahs...? One of the best ways to revitalize can be to give – to help someone else. And may we suggest... giving your time or talents to FPC's biggest fundraiser of the year?

This year's auction will bring the Monopoly game to life, and we invite you to donate, volunteer, and attend!

DONATE	VOLUNTEER	ATTEND
baked goods services gift cards meals for home-delivery host a dinner host a party	set-up & clean-up servers bid spotters & recorders be an auctioneer clean-up	<u>Silent Auction</u> - March 26 - April 5 on Auctria <u>Live Auction</u> – April 1 at FPC, 6:30-9:30 pm

To get started, go to our FPC webpage where you'll find a donation form, gift card sign-up Genius, and many more details. And thank you! www.fpc-stow-acton.org/auction

