

April 9, 2023 10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude Trish Woods, piano

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Brendon Chetwynd,
Board Member

Greet Your Neighbor

Introit *When I Rise Up* FPC Adult Choir
J. David Moore

Opening Words "Out of the Earth"
Elizabeth M. Strong

Chalice Lighting

* **Hymn #61** *Lo, the Earth Awakes Again*

* **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.

Centering

Time for All Ages "The Velveteen Rabbit" Narrated by
edited by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Kendra Jablonowski
L. Landrum Performed by
supporting actors

Lighting the Lantern

Joys and Sorrows Ingrid Holcomb, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation "Rolling Away the Stone"
by Sarah York

* **Hymn #270** *O Day of Light and
Gladness*

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

Exploring

Reading

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with Concord Prison Outreach.
You may donate with a check made out to "First Parish Church,"
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text to (978) 310-3309.

Anthem

Holding the Light,
B.E. Boykin

FPC Adult Choir

1. Gather up whatever is
glittering in the gutter,
whatever has tumbled
in the waves or fallen
in flames out of the sky,
Holding the light...

2. For it's not only our
hearts that are broken,
but the heart
of the world as well.
Stitch it back together.

Hold it...

3. Make a place where
the day speaks to the night
and the earth speaks to the sky.
Whether we created God
or God created us
Holding the light...

4. It all comes down to this:
In our imperfect world
we are meant to repair
and stitch together
what beauty there is, stitch it
with compassion and wire.
See how everything
we have made gathers
the light inside itself
and overflows? A blessing.

Sermon

"Being Real and the
Meaning of Easter"

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.
Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #203**

*All Creatures of the Earth
and Sky*

* **Benediction**

"i thank you God for most
this amazing"

e.e. cummings

* **Community Singing**

"Hallelujah" from *Messiah*
G.F. Handel

All are invited to
join the choir

Families, please join us on the front lawn
following the service for our egg hunt!

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*



Thank you to

Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host
Marion Scott and Jeff Brown, Ushers
Kate Imhoff and Nick Francis, Coffee Hour Hosts
and to our staff and leadership

Our Easter plants today are given by

Mary Evans
Johanna Pyle
Sharon Brownfield **

Liz & Phil Moseley, in celebration of the birth of Charlotte Jean Zolla Kwening
Elizabeth Michaud, in honor of her mother, Ellen H. Michaud,
and in memory of her late father, Robert E. Michaud
Skip Warren****, in memory of departed family members and friends of the Church
Marcia Allison, in memory of Anna Lara Burakiewicz

* Indicates quantity of plants



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](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/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



Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Minister

Marissa Evans
Acting Director, Religious Education

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration and Membership

Brad Dumont
Music Director

Trish Woods.....Interim 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: Information for folks joining us online

1. Closed captioning is available for FPC's online services. If you don't see captions on your screen, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn them on.
2. Today's Zoom Host is Sharon Brownfield.
3. Hymn lyrics are below.



Hymn #61 *Lo, the Earth Awakes Again*

1. Lo, the earth awakes again--Alleluia!
From the winter's bond and pain. Alleluia!
Bring we leaf and flower and spray--Alleluia!
to adorn this happy day. Alleluia!
2. Once again the word comes true, Alleluia!
All the earth shall be made new. Alleluia!
Now the dark, cold days are o'er, Alleluia!
Spring and gladness are before. Alleluia!
3. Change, then, mourning into praise, Alleluia!
And, for dirges, anthems raise. Alleluia!
How our spirits soar and sing, Alleluia!
How our hearts leap with the spring! Alleluia!

Hymn #270 *O Day of Light and Gladness*

1. O day of light and gladness, of prophecy and song,
what thoughts within us waken, what hallowed mem'ries throng!
The soul's horizon widens, past, present, future blend;
and rises on our vision the life that has no end.
2. Earth feels the season's joyance; from mountain range to sea
the tides of life are flowing, fresh, manifold, and free.
In valley and on upland, by forest pathways dim,
all nature lifts in chorus the resurrection hymn.

3. O Dawn of life eternal, to thee our hearts up-raise
the Easter song of gladness, the Passover of praise.
Thine are the many mansions, the dead die not to thee,
who fillest from thy fullness time and eternity.

Hymn #203 *All Creatures of the Earth and Sky*

1. All creatures of the earth and sky,
come, kindred, lift your voices high, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam:

Chorus: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

2. Swift rushing wind so wild and strong,
white clouds that sail in heav'n along, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Fair rising morn in praise rejoice,
high stars of evening find a voice: (Chorus)
3. Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for all life to hear, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Dance, flame of fire, so strong and bright,
and bless us with your warmth and light: (Chorus)
4. Embracing earth, you, day by day,
bring forth your blessings on our way, Alleluia, Alleluia!
All herbs and fruits that richly grow,
let them the glory also show: (Chorus)
5. All you of understanding heart,
forgiving others, take your part, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Let all things now the Holy bless,
and worship God in humbleness: (Chorus)

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

FPC Announcements

Today at FPC

10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online

11 am Coffee Hour with Auction Items Sale, Fellowship Hall

12 pm Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry, Online

Coffee Hour/Auction Sale The Auction has closed, but the game isn't over! Come see what's available! 30+ jewelry pieces and other auction items available for purchase and pick up today at coffee hour... all jewelry will be marked down below the auction minimum bids! Bring your cash or checks and get some great deals! Jewelry won in the auction will also be available for pick up.

Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry TODAY and 4/23, 12 noon, Online

You don't need to know anything about poetry to join Elizabeth Cobblah, Ilene Rudman, and Hector Constantzos for this deeply satisfying time of connection that's been going on at FPC for over a decade! Engage with others through a poem – read, listen, respond.

Please contact one of us with questions or to attend: ecobblah@fenn.org, irudman@aol.com, or Hconstantzos@gmail.com.



Do you know a teen interested in babysitting?

We are looking to supplement our core group of paid FPC-affiliated teen childcare providers with a few new individuals from the Stow/Acton/Maynard area who are in 8th grade or beyond that you would personally recommend. Teens don't necessarily have to have babysitting experience, just be responsible and have interest in connecting with children. We pay \$15/hr. and have occasional weekend openings, especially Sunday mornings in the summer. If you know someone to recommend, please email Justin Marble at justin.a.marble@gmail.com.

We're Hiring! Help us find a Family Programs Assistant

In response to a resounding desire from the FPC community to maintain and grow our programs for children, youth, and families, we have created this temporary 3-month position. The Family Programs Assistant will work with Marissa Evans through the remainder of the church year. Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/familyprogramsassistant>. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please email dre@fpc-stow-acton.org.

April Plate Sharing:

Concord Prison Outreach

Concord Prison Outreach (CPO) is a 501(c)(3) organization composed of a coalition of individuals and faith communities committed to helping people who are incarcerated build better lives for themselves and their families. Since its founding in 1968, when its first volunteers helped to support people in a local prison infirmary, CPO has developed into the largest organization of its kind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. CPO works cooperatively with the

Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC), offering educational programs that focus on skill-building and personal growth, essentials to help support people in prison to achieve success while incarcerated or post-incarceration.

Recently, CPO has restarted programming in the BRAVE (Building Responsible Adults through Validation and Education) Unit to house 45 young fathers at MCI-Concord. Many of the young fathers have no relationships with their own fathers, or positive role models. Mentors will support these younger men as they work at being fathers themselves, navigate the stressors of prison life, and participate in programming to bolster other areas of their lives. Programming includes mentoring to guide fathers to have healthier relationships with their children.

For information about CPO programs and volunteer opportunities, please visit the website concordprisonoutreach.org.

This Week in Religious Education

Children (PreK-1st & 2nd-5th Graders): We'll learn about the Easter story and decorate bags for the egg hunt.

Junior Youth (6th-8th graders): We'll hide easter eggs outside, and then start planning the Youth-led service that will take place on May 21st.

All children and youth will return to the end of worship to participate in the Hallelujah chorus, and then children can go outside for the Easter egg hunt!

This Week at FPC: April 10 - 15

Mon 4/10 **SGM: 2nd Monday Group** 7-9 pm, Community Room
Jazz Band Rehearsal 7-9 pm, Sanctuary - Please contact Michael Paladini mwpaladini@gmail.com for more information.

Tue 4/11 **Coffee and Chat*** 10-11 am, Town Gazebo at Town Park, adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!
11th Hour Climate Bell 11:00 am, in front of FPC

Wed 4/12 **Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) Meeting** 7-8 pm, Online
Climate Task Force Meeting 7:30-9:30 pm, Online
Meditation* 7:30-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall/Online
 Contact: meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org

Thu 4/13 **Peace Vigil*** 5-6 pm, in front of FPC, btwn Common & Great Rds
 Contact: Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net
Choir Rehearsal 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary

Fri 4/14 **SGM: 2nd Friday Group** 9:30-11:30 am, Community Room
Bridge Group* 1-3:30 pm, Community Room
 Contact: Hector Hconstantzos@gmail.com
FPC Guest Table 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sat 4/15 **Garden Conversations** 9-10 am, Online

Sun 4/16 **Next Sunday's Service:** 10am, Sanctuary/Online/Phone

“Chaos and Order” – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
 Dahlia Lithwick once wrote in *Slate* Magazine of “Muppet Theory, a little-known, poorly understood philosophy that holds that every living human can be classified according to one simple metric: Every one of us is either a Chaos Muppet or an Order Muppet.” In this service, your minister, who is clearly an Order Muppet, will talk about the beauty and grace that Chaos can bring, particularly when we’re fixated on perfectionism.

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

Meeting ID: 999 7077 0266; Passcode: 01775

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



*All are welcome to these weekly FPC events

Events at FPC

11th Hour Climate Bell Tue 4/11, 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 4/14, Fellowship Hall

Doors open at 5. Food served at 5:30. All are welcome – no charge.

Garden Conversations Sat 4/15, 9-10 am, Online

Please join us to share questions, tips and sometimes resources for the gardening season. Gardeners with all levels of experience are invited to join the conversation. Contact Rick Lent at rickmlent@gmail.com for the Zoom link. And speaking of gardens...

Start Planning for the FPC Plant Sale – An Important Fundraiser!

This year’s Plant Sale is Saturday, May 20, 9:30-11:30 am. If there’s leftover stock from that live sale, we’ll hold an honor system sale, too (time TBD). As we do every year, we’re asking FPC earth lovers for plants – lots of plants – from your yards and gardens!

Consider which plants to donate:

shrubs
 small trees
 ground cover
 herbs
 perennials
 vegetables
 flowering plants you may have started
 (different/unusual ones are especially desirable)



Dig up and pot them ASAP:

Early-season transplanting is less stressful on plants. Put them in a good spot where they can grow strong and look their very best for delivery and Sale Day.



We're also looking for help with gathering, organizing, and labeling plants, and setting up and running the sale. Please email peggyaladini@gmail.com.