

December 12, 2021
9 and 11 AM

Gathering

Prelude

9 am: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by J.S. Bach
Sanghee Kim, piano

11 am: *Keep Your Lamps* Arr. A. Thomas
FPC Choir

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome & Announcements

9 am: Rick Lent
11 am: Name

Greet Your Neighbor

Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

Lighting the Advent Candles

* **Hymn #225** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
(verses 1, 2, and 4)

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.

* *As pandemic levels remain high, we ask that you hum instead of singing.*

Centering

Message for All Ages

9 am: Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
11 am: Michelle Coté,
Director of Religious Education

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows

9:00 am: Carolyn Zettler, Lay Minister
11:00 am: Marcia Rising, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation

* **Hymn #275** *Joyful Is the Dark*
(verses 1, 3, and 2)

Exploring

Reading *Welcome Morning* by Anne Sexton

Sharing Our Gifts Name, Plate Sharing Org.

This month we share our weekly offering with
UU Urban Ministry.

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

9 am: *Keep Your Lamps* by Blind Willie Thomas
Brad Dumont, Vocal

11 am: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by J.S. Bach
Sanghee Kim, piano

Sermon

Opening to Joy
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

* **Hymn #3: #58** *Ring Out, Wild Bells*
(verses 1, 4, and 2)

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

Take My Life by H.A.C. Malan
and Let It Be Sanghee Kim, piano



Thank you to today's participants and to:
Peter Fiske, Jamison House, Nancy Cataldo
and Judy Holmes, ushers;
Brendon Chetwynd, Jonathan Daisy,
and Hector Constantzos, Tech Helpers;
Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host and Ingrid Holcomb off-site Greeter;
and to our staff and leadership.

Our flowers today are given by Skip Warren
in loving memory of many departed Warren family members.



FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, December 12, 2021

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister
Michelle Cote, Director of Religious Education
Deedee Perkins, Parish Administrator
Brad Dumont, Music Director
Sanghee Kim, Organist/Pianist
Joleen Trotta, Welcoming & Membership Coordinator
Mike Silkonis, Sexton
Marissa Evans, Youth Coordinator
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.*

Large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher to help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible. Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the sanctuary.

On the web at fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.

* As pandemic levels remain high, we ask that you hum instead of singing.

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE

This page contains information specifically for folks joining us online!

Today's Online Helpers

Zoom Host: Kim Kinnear

Online Greeter: Ingrid Holcomb

Sanctuary Zoom Helper: Hector Constantzos

Choir Zoom Helper: Brendon Chetwynd

Sanctuary Video: Jonathan Daisy

Hymn Lyrics

Hymn #225 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and with your captive children dwell.
Give comfort to all exiles here,
and to the aching heart bid cheer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Love to dwell.
2. O come, you Splendor very bright,
as joy that never yields to might.
O come, and turn all hearts to peace,
that greed and war at last shall cease.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Truth to dwell.
3. O come, you Wisdom from on high,
from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care,
to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Hope to dwell.

Hymn #275

Joyful Is the Dark

1. Joyful is the dark, holy, hidden God,
rolling cloud of night beyond all naming:
majesty in darkness, energy of love,
Word-in-flesh, the mystery proclaiming.
2. Joyful is the dark, shadowed stable floor;
angels flicker, God on earth confessing,
as with exultation, Mary, giving birth,
hails the infant cry of need and blessing.
3. Joyful is the dark, Spirit of the deep,
winging wildly o'er the world's creation,
silken sheen of midnight, plumage black and bright,
swooping with the beauty of a raven.

Hymn #58

Ring Out, Wild Bells

1. Ring out, wild bells, to the wild, wild sky,
the flying cloud, the frosty light:
the year is dying in the night;
ring out, wild bells, and let it die.
2. Ring out false pride in place and blood,
the civic slander and the spite;
ring in the love of truth and right;
ring in the common love of good.
3. Ring out the old, ring in the new,
ring, happy bells, across the snow:
the year is going, let it go;
ring out the false, ring in the true.

Sharing Our Gifts

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

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

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

FPC Announcements
Sunday, December 12, 2021

DECEMBER PLATE SHARE

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

This month's plate sharing recipient is Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry, which is based in Roxbury. Their bold new mission statement reads:

"We work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture, and to advance racial, economic, and social justice".

They offer programs for the youth in the community, including a six week summer program which offered local history tours and art activities.

The six week fall program will offer academic tutoring, as well as workshops about history and community leadership programs.

Urban Ministry also supports survivors of domestic violence, which includes a program called "*Believe in Success*". This program teaches computer skills and how to build a resume, as well as offering mindfulness and meditation practices.

The domestic violence shelter, Renewal House has been in operation since 1980.

For more information, please visit their website, uuum.org

Coffee and Chat

will continue on Tuesday mornings from 10-11AM

Meet at the Town Park adjacent to FPC.

Wear a mask, dress for the weather, and bring your own coffee!

If the weather is poor an FPC Announce will be posted with a link for a Zoom meetup instead. ~Ann Sadler

TODAY AT FPC

10:30 Choir Warm Up

11:00 Choir

12:45-1:30 Spiritual Conversations

THIS WEEK IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades PreK-5: We will be learning about the traditional Christmas story this week.

Junior Youth do not have morning programs at 9 or 11 this week.

The Junior Youth Group Holiday Party! Today from 3-4:15 in Fellowship Hall. Social Distancing, Masks and all safety protocols will be followed.

The High School Discussion Group will meet from 11-12:15 this Sunday to discuss Inequality in the Workplace.

Parents can register their Senior youth to begin in the service if they wish.

The Senior Youth Group Holiday Party today from 4:30-6 in Fellowship Hall. Social Distancing, Masks and all safety protocols will be followed.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 13-18

- Monday** SGM 7:00pm zoom
Sounds of Stow 7-9pm, Hall
- Tuesday** Coffee & Chat 10-11:00am at
Gazebo town park
Racial Justice Task Force
- Wednesday** Children's Horizon's Hall 9:30-11:30am
SGM 7:00pm Zoom
Ukulele 7:00pm Zoom
Meditation 7:25pm-8:30pm Zoom
- Thursday** Children's Horizon's Hall 9:30-11:30am
Staff Mtg 12:30-2:00pm Zoom
Peace Vigil 5:00pm outside church
Choir Rehearsal 7:15-9:15 pm Hall

Sunday, December 19th, 2021

SERVICES AT 9:00 AM in the sanctuary by Reservation
SERVICES AT 11 AM in the Sanctuary by Reservation and on Video

A SOLSTICE CELEBRATION: ST. GEORGE & THE DRAGON

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This year with vaccinations for younger children still under way, it did not feel possible to do our traditional Mummer's Play in quite the same way. So this service will be a service celebrating the spirit of the Mummer's Play, with a telling of St. George and the Dragon, and featuring short vignettes from the play performed by children and/or adults, both virtually and in person. If you're interested in participating, contact the minister.

To allow for social distancing, we are requiring advance requests to

attend our services in person. **To request a spot, please fill out this form by Thursday**
at noon: <https://fpcosna.breezechms.com/form/26dae8347547> We may be able to accommodate walk-ins on Sunday, but attendance for walk-ins is not guaranteed.

Join by video: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcdecjan>
Meeting ID: 931 5354 4388
Passcode: 11762
Join by phone: 1 929 205 6099 US (long distance rates will apply)

FPC Stewardship Campaign is Underway

FPC's Stewardship campaign for our next fiscal year is now underway. Thank you so much to our members and friends who have already made pledges! In the spirit of Giving Tuesday, please join us in Embracing the Possibilities and reaffirming your financial commitment to FPC with a stewardship pledge.



The goals for this year's campaign are:
100% Member Participation
5% Increase in the total Pledge amount

Please join our stewardship campaign today and pledge on line. Pledging on line is easy and secure. Here is the link <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge>. Alternatively, please contact a member of the Stewardship team or the Board to arrange an in-person stewardship discussion, or to request a pledge card.

First Parish Church is a self-sustaining congregation that relies on the generosity of members and friends to fund about 70% of our budget. Please make a pledge today if possible, or in any case by December 19.

Remember our goals: 100% Member Participation and 5% average pledge increase. Thank you for your generosity