

December 19, 2021

9:30 and 11am:

Gathering

Prelude 9am: *Carol Selection* Elena Spencer, violin
11am: *The Ground* by O. Gjeilo
FPC Choir

11:00 Greet Your Neighbor

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome & Announcements

9am: Sue Moses, Board Trustee
11am: Bill Froberg, Board Treasurer

9:00 Greet Your Neighbor

Mummer 9am: *Room* Pat Sorn, former director
11am: Janet Beatrice, former director

Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting & Advent Candle Lighting

Mummer 9am: *Fool* Marion Scott
11am: Kirsten Chetwynd

Hymn #235 *Deck the Halls* FPC Hymn Singers

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

Joys and Sorrows

9am: Susie O'Brien, Lay Minister
11am: Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our offering with the 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.

Offertory *Minuet in G* L. V. Beethoven
Sanghee Kim, piano

The Spirit of the Mummer's Play

Mummers 9am: *Mother Christmas* Ann Sadler
Peddler Molly & Baker Cece Braun
& Maggie Braun
11am: *Mother Christmas* Ginny Briggs

Story and Message Part One: The Revelry & Mirth

Song *Christmas Is Coming* FPC Hymn Singers

Mummers 9am: *St. George and the Dragon* Tommy Garr
& Shana Dumont Garr
Longest Knight Susan Avery
11am: *St. George and the Dragon* Emily Jones
& Sue Stewart
Longest Knight Brad Dumont

Story and Message Part Two: The Dying Year

Hymn #1063 *Winter Solstice Chant* FPC Hymn Singers

Mummer 9am: *Doctor* Marcia Allison
11am: Ruth Lull

Story and Message Part Three: The Return of the Sun

Returning

Hymn *Wassail Song*

1. Here we come a-wassailing, Among the leaves so green,
Here we come a-wand'ring, so fair to be seen.

Chorus

Love and joy come to you, and to you your wassail, too,
And God bless you, and send you, A Happy New Year,
And God send you a Happy New Year.

2. We are not daily beggars, that beg from door to door,
But we are neighbors' children whom you have seen before.
(Chorus)

3. God bless the master of this house,
likewise the mistress too;
And all the little children that round the table go.
(Chorus)

Mummer 9am: *Fool* Marion Scott
11am: Kirsten Chetwynd

Benediction

Sung Benediction

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 *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

9am: Elena Spencer, violin
11am: FPC Hymn Singers



Thank you to:

Zoom host Kim Kinnear; online welcomer Karen Kinnear; tech
helpers Hector Constantzos, Brendon Chetwynd and Caty
Landrum Larkin; our ushers, Marcia Allison & Kevin O'Brien,
first service; Jeff Brown, second service,
and to our staff and leadership.

Our flowers today are given by Ruth and Geoff Lull
to honor friends and family.



FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, December 19, 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.

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE

This page contains information specifically for folks joining us online!

Today's Online Helpers

Zoom Host: Kim Kinnear

Online Greeter: Karen Kinnear

Sanctuary Zoom Helper: Hector Constantzos

Choir Zoom Helper: Brendon Chetwynd

Sanctuary Video: Cathleen Landrum Larkin

Hymn Lyrics

Hymn #235

Deck the Halls

1. Deck the hall with boughs of holly, fa la la la la, la la la la.
'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la la la la, la la la la.
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, fa la la la la, la la la la.
2. See the blazing Yule before us, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Follow me in merry measure, fa la la la la la, la la la la.
While I tell of Yuletide treasure, fa la la la la, la la la la.
3. Fast away the old year passes, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Sing we joyous all together, fa la la la la la, la la la la.
Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Hymn #1063

Winter Solstice Chant

1. Children of the Earth,
we have come to sing to each other,
Sister to Brother,
songs of our Mother Earth.
2. Children of the Earth,
Autumn soon will breathe her last breath
and quick will her death bear
witness to Winter's Birth.
3. Children of the Earth,
can you feel the air getting cold
as darkness takes hold
and sleep covers Mother Earth?
4. Children of the Earth,
we have come to sit in the darkness,
breathe in the silence,
think of our Mother Earth.

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 19, 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, uum.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

THIS WEEK IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are no RE Classes or youth groups today. All children and youth are invited to take part in the service either in person or virtually. Rev. Cindy will be doing a Solstice-themed, Mummery Sunday service which will include short vignettes from the Mummer's play. These might be a short monologue for an individual person, or a piece for two or three characters in dialogue with each other for a family group. This year mumming is for children AND adults, as well!

DECEMBER 20-26, 2021

- Monday** Cece Braun 2:30-4:00pm
Girl Scouts Hall
Sounds of Stow 7-9pm, Hall
- Tuesday** Coffee & Chat 10-11:00am at
SGM 7:00pm Zoom
- Wednesday** Worship Committee 12:30 zoom
Meditation 7:25pm-8:30pm Zoom
- Thursday** Staff Mtg 12:30-2:00pm Zoom
Peace Vigil 5:00pm outside church
Choir Rehearsal 7:15-9:15 pm Hall

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES~SEE BELOW



Friday, December 24th, 2021
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
4:00pm, 7:00pm, & 9:00pm

3 SERVICES - 4pm, 7pm, or 9pm
4pm outside
7pm inside & zoom & phone
9pm inside with caroling outside

4 PM Nativity Story Service (Outside)

This service will feature the nativity story as an interactive and participatory central part of the service. If weather prohibits an outside service, watch FPC Announce for our alternative program information.

7 PM Candlelight Service (Inside and briefly outside and Zoom/Phone)

This service will start inside, and be a more quiet and solemn service featuring instrumental music and songs soloists and small groups. It will also conclude outside with singing “Silent Night.” If weather prohibits this service, we invite people to join the 9pm service online.

This service will be broadcasted online. People who are local but joining electronically may pick up a candle and order of service on Wednesday 12/22 from 11-1pm in the Atrium, or request a candle and order of service to be delivered to them by emailing Joleen at mdc@fpc-stow-acton.org. If weather makes it necessary to change in-person plans, this service will still be broadcast online.

To reserve an in-person spot at this service, please fill out this form by Sunday, December 19th—

<https://fpcosna.breezechms.com/form/26dae83475473>

Join by video: <https://tinyurl.com/fpc1224>

Meeting ID: 973 3493 9468

Passcode: 1224

Join by phone: 929-205-6099 (long distance rates will apply)

9 PM Caroling and Candlelight Service (inside and outside)

This service will begin in the sanctuary for a welcome, and then go outside with the choir leading us in anthem and carol singing outside in front of the church, and then will move back inside the sanctuary for readings and live and recorded music. The service will conclude with us going back outside and singing Silent Night.

To reserve an in-person spot at this service, please fill out this form by Sunday, December

19th: <https://fpcosna.breezechms.com/form/26dae83475473>

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19th: <https://fpcosna.breezechms.com/form/26dae83475473>



Sunday, December 26th, 2021

10 AM ONLY ~ VIDEO

**Spiritual Conversation
Through Poetry**

Poetry is an art form meant to stir something inside. Sunday, Dec. 26, the Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry group at First Parish Church of Stow & Acton (FPC) will lead FPC's Sunday service. Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry leads discussions at FPC about the journey a poem might take you on. During this service, we will read and listen to a poem and then, through insight and reflection, share what stirs inside each one of us. *There will be just one service at 10 a.m. and it will be virtual.* All are welcome and there's no need to have experience reading or interpreting poetry.

There are no RE Classes or youth groups today.

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)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

10 AM

Quaker Meeting for Worship service at 10am

SEE WEBSITE

[Upcoming Services | First Parish Church of Stow & Acton \(fpc-stow-acton.org\)](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org)

Happy New Year! There are no RE Classes or youth groups today. Our full RE program resumes next Sunday, January 9. See you all then.

FPC Stewardship Campaign – Please Pledge Today

The Fall Phase of FPC's Stewardship campaign is wrapping up this month. Our goal is 100% member participation.

Thank you so much to our members and friends who have already made pledges! Beginning in January, your Stewardship Team will begin contacting FPC members who have not participated.



First Parish Church is a self-sustaining congregation that relies on the generosity of members and friends to fund 70% of our budget. Our current Stewardship campaign is welcoming pledges for the church fiscal years which begins July 1, 2022.

Please make your Pledge by December 19 (Today). Pledging on line is easy and secure. The link is <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/pledge>. Alternatively, you may contact a member of the Stewardship team or the Board to arrange an in-person stewardship discussion, or to request a pledge card.

Thank you for your generosity to First Parish Church!

From the FPC Stewardship Team: Rachele Reisberg, Rick Gentilman, Sharon Brownfield, Helen Ham, Sue Moses, Russ Hart, and Lynda Layer