

Returning

* Song #241

In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
2. Christ, a homeless stranger, so the gospels say,
cradled in a manger and a bed of hay;
in the bleak midwinter, stable place sufficed
Mary and her baby, Jesus Christ.
3. Once more child and mother weave their magic spell,
touching hearts with wonder word can never tell;
in the bleak midwinter, in this world of pain,
where our hearts are open love is born again.

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

Journey of the Heart

by D. Alexander
Sanghee Kim, piano



Our flowers today are donated by Bob and Dee Glorioso in
memory of a fully vaccinated friend to COVID.



Thank you to today's participants, and to Marcia Allison & Jeff Brown and Kate & Nick, Ushers; Brendon Chetwynd, Jonathan Daisy, and Hector Constantzos, Tech Helpers; Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host; Ingrid Holcomb and Karen Kinnear, off-site Greeters; and to our staff and leadership.

* While pandemic levels remain at FPC's "orange gate," we ask that the congregation not join in singing, but you may hum softly if desired.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, December 5, 2021

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister
Michelle Coté, 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.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 5, 2021

10:30am Choir warm up Hall

11:00am Choir in the Hall zooming

This Sunday in our Religious Education Program

Grades PreK-5: We will be learning about the holiday of Hanukkah this week.

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

The Junior Youth Group will meet today from 3-415 in Fellowship Hall for Baking and Making Cards. Social Distancing, Masks and all safety protocols will be followed.

The High School Discussion Group will meet from 11-1215 this Sunday to discuss Relationship Ethics (What would you do if?). Parents can register their Senior youth to begin in the service if they wish.

The Senior Youth Group will meet today from 4:30-6 in the Fellowship Hall for Baking and Making Cards. Social Distancing, Masks and all safety protocols will be followed.

This Sunday December 5 at 5:00pm
A fun and casual virtual carol sing
Offered by the FPC Choir from the Sanctuary

Find the zoom link at FPC-STOW-ACTON.ORG

WEEK OF DECEMBER 6-12 2021

Monday Assabet Food Coop Vestry 10-12pm
Sounds of Stow 7-9pm, Hall

Tuesday Coffee & Chat 10-11:00am at
Gazebo town park
Cookie Swap zoom
Owl Orientation 6:30pm Hall
Book Group 7:00pm zoom
RE Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday Meditation 7:25pm-8:30pm zoom

Thursday Archives 9:30-12:30 Vestry
Staff Mtg 12:30-2:00pm zoom
Peace Vigil 5:00pm outside church
Choir Rehearsal 7:15-9:15 pm Hall

Friday SGM 9:30am zoom
Cece Braun Girls Scouts
12:00-3:30pm Hall

Saturday Sat Morning Breakfast (see below)
SGM 9:00am zoom
HALL RENTAL 5:00PM-11:00P

The Board Would Like to Thank:

COVID Task Force

Katy Weeks
Leah Abraham
Rebecca Stadlnik
Deb O'Connell
Bill Froberg
Scott Feldhusen
Jenni Edgerton

Ventilation Team

Deb O'Connell
Leah Abraham
Lee Coopriider
Scott Feldhusen

FPC COOKIE SWAP - SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, December 7, 7:00pm

Like every other year, this year we will again be celebrating our FPC Cookie Swap on Tuesday, December 7, starting at 7:00 pm via zoom. Sign into the link below and you will be sent the connection prior to the event.

<https://massmed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlJudeqhrT4rEtd4gPV3Ggw54UdLoMprOVTs>

The sharing of poems and stories by Ann Sadler will certainly put you in a surprisingly relaxed start to the holidays. Hopefully, you will also bring a story to share.

Many of us go to the Cookie Swap every year. We hope you'll come for the very first time.

Sent from Diane Miller, Liz Moseley, Ann Sadler and Lynda Layer

Saturday Morning

Breakfast

ZOOM

December 11, 2021 Redlining in Acton? Confronting the history of housing discrimination: Bob Van Meter will explore the history of racial discrimination in housing in the US and in our region. It draws on the themes discussed in the recent best selling book, The Color of Law, and includes local examples. We will explore the legacy of historic discrimination for our communities today. Bob is a resident of Acton and has spent most of his career as a community organizer and affordable housing developer. He is currently an adjunct lecturer on affordable housing at Boston College and serves on the board of the Acton Community Housing Corporation and Acton Housing for all.

~Jeff Brown

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 to First Parish Church!

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

Away and in Danger Carol of the Refugee Children

♩ = 100
Unison

1 A - way and in dan - ger, no hope of a bed, the
 2 The ba - bies are cry - ing, their hun - ger a - wakes, the
 3 Come close, lit - tle chil - dren, we hold out our hand in

ref - u - gee chil - dren, no tears left to shed, look
 boat is too load - ed, it shud - ders and breaks; hu -
 res - cue and wel - come to shores of our land in

up at the night sky for some - one to know that
 man - i - ty's wreck - age is thrown out to die, the
 *a - ro - ha, touch - ing your fear and your pain, with

ref - u - gee chil - dren have no place to go.
 ref - u - gee chil - dren will nev - er know why.
 dreams for your fu - ture when peace comes a - gain.

*Maori for "warm, embracing love." Alternative line: "in touching, in healing"

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray
MUSIC: Lim Suet Hong
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Music © 2017 Hope Publishing Company

AROMA
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