

July 31, 2022

**Gathering**

**Prelude**

*Ryan Cat*

V.M. Johnson  
Sanghee Kim, piano

**Land Acknowledgement, Welcome & Announcements**

Marcia Allison, Worship Committee Member

**Greet Your Neighbor**

**Opening Words**

**Chalice Lighting**

\* **Hymn #360**      *Here We Have Gathered*

1. Here we have gathered, gathered side by side;  
circle of kinship, come and step inside!  
May all who seek here find a kindly word;  
may all who speak here feel they have been heard.  
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.
2. Here we have gathered, called to celebrate  
days of our lifetime, matters small and great:  
we of all ages, women, children, men,  
infants and sages, sharing what we can.  
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.
3. Life has its battles, sorrows, and regret:  
but in the shadows, let us not forget:  
we who now gather know each other's pain;  
kindness can heal us: as we give, we gain.  
Sing now in friendship this, our hearts' own song.

\* **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**

**Prayer or Meditation**

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

'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.  
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.

**Exploring**

**Reading**

**Sharing Our Gifts**

*A Memory*

G.P. Tingley  
Sanghee Kim

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(978) 310-3309, or make checks to "First Parish Church."

Pledges: attn: Pledge Secretary, PO Box 215, Stow MA 01775  
Donations: attn: Treasurer, 353 Great Rd, Stow MA 01775

This month we share our weekly offering with 3LPlace, Cultivate Care Farm, & Maynard Anti-Racism Alliance (MARA). **3LPlace** provides community and opportunity to people living with autism and other developmental disabilities on a journey of life-long learning. **Cultivate Care Farm** in Bolton offers groups for teens and pre-teens, with lots of support for LGBTQ+ kids, to make friends and talk about animals. **MARA** provides anti-racism education in the greater Maynard area, and celebrates artists, educators, and others who have been marginalized by racism.

**Sermon**

*In Loving Tension*

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Returning**

\* **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.

\* **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.



**Childcare** is provided for children in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under.  
Children may proceed directly to child care  
before the beginning of the service.



**Thank you to:** Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host;  
Lee Coopridger, Tech Helper; Marcia Allison, Usher;  
and to our participants, staff and leadership.

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH  
OF STOW & ACTON**

*Unitarian Universalist*



**Sunday, July 31, 2022  
10:00 A.M.**

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister  
Marissa Evans, Acting Director of Religious Education  
Deedee Perkins, Parish Administrator  
Brad Dumont, Music Director  
Sanghee Kim, Organist/Pianist  
Mike Silkonis, Sexton  
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](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.