

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host
Felix Freeman, Tech Assistant
Marcia Rising and Carolyn Zettler, Ushers
Kirsten Chetwynd, Coffee Hour Host
and our staff and leadership

🌸 Today's flowers are donated by Ruth Lull, 🌸
In honor of family members who have gone before us.



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 that this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.



How to Connect with First Parish Church:

Sign our visitor log at tinyurl.com/visitfpc or scan the QR code:
We'll send you information on request.



Come to Sunday's 10 am service and 11 am social hour, in person or online.

Subscribe to our publications...

The Chronicle - monthly e-newsletter

This Week at FPC - weekly e-newsletter

FPCAnnounce & FPCForum - e-mail groups

...all at <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>.

**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW & ACTON**
Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, December 3, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
Minister

Meg Rivers-Wright
Administration and Membership

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Chris Hossfeld
Music Director

Trevor Berens
Accompanist

Justin Marble
Nursery Care Coordinator

Mike Silkonis
Sexton

Janet Beatrice
External Publicity

Felix Freeman
Tech Assistant

Jenni Edgerton
President

Brendon Chetwynd
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,
large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher.
Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the Sanctuary.

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church.
Several rows in the back of the Sanctuary are designated "mask-required."
They are a greater distance from unmasked speakers and include accessible seating.

FPC is on the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

December 3, 2023: 10 am

Gathering

Prelude meditation #7 Trevor Berens, piano
John Kramer

Welcome Ruth Lull, Board Member

Stewardship Testimonial Sharon Brownfield

Opening Words by Gary Kowalski Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice & Advent Candle Lighting
by Cynthia Landrum

* Hymn #241 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation**

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.

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.

Land Acknowledgement

Time for All Ages Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson
Director of Religious Education

Going Forth With the Light

Exploring

Reading “The Griever’s Holiday Bill of Rights”
by Bruce Conley

Plate Sharing Introduction Mark Koenig

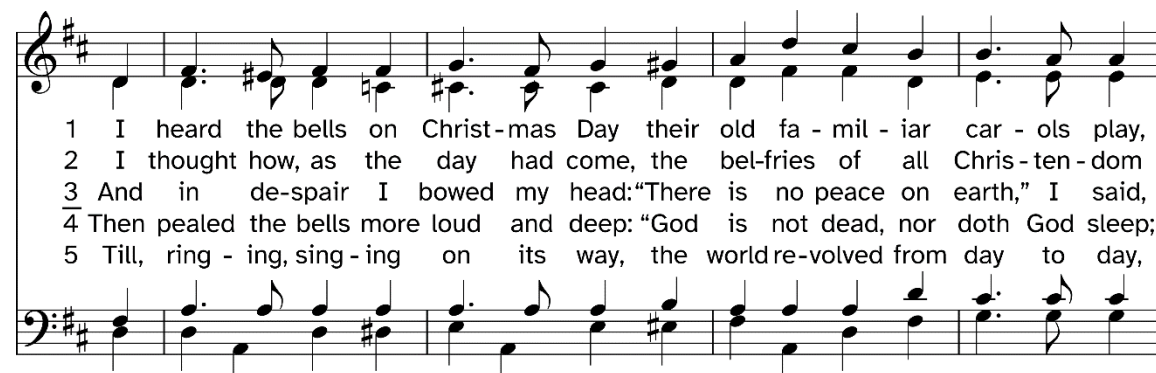
Sharing Our Gifts

This month at FPC we share our weekly offering with **FPC’s Guest Table** (insert).
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.

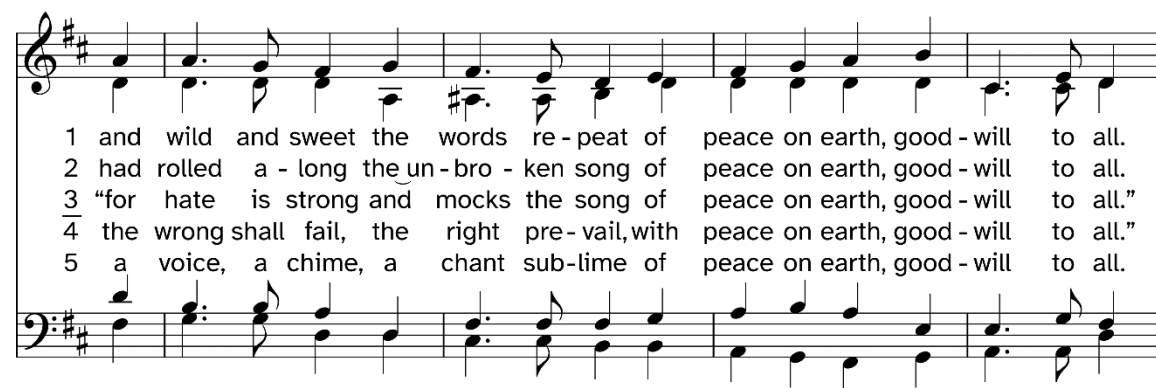
Anthem “In the Bleak Midwinter” FPC Adult Choir
Music: Harold Dark Trevor Berens, piano
Words: Christina Rossetti Bob Glorioso, soloist

Sermon “In the Bleak Midwinter” Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* Hymn #240 “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”



1 I heard the bells on Christ-mas Day their old fa - mil - iar car - ols play,
2 I thought how, as the day had come, the bel-fries of all Chris - ten - dom
3 And in de-spair I bowed my head: “There is no peace on earth,” I said,
4 Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: “God is not dead, nor doth God sleep;
5 Till, ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, the world re - volved from day to day,



1 and wild and sweet the words re - peat of peace on earth, good - will to all.
2 had rolled a - long the un - bro - ken song of peace on earth, good - will to all.
3 “for hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good - will to all.”
4 the wrong shall fail, the right pre - vail, with peace on earth, good - will to all.”
5 a voice, a chime, a chant sub - lime of peace on earth, good - will to all.

Sharing

Joys and Sorrows Kate Hart, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation “Psalm for the Wintered Soul”
Cynthia Frado

Returning

* Hymn #244 “Let Christmas Come”

* **Benediction** by Douglas Taylor

* **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 “Mid-Winter” Trevor Berens, piano
Edward MacDowell

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: **Kim Kinnear**
3. Hymn lyrics will be in a slide presentation today.



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