

Love

*Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.*





FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum
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*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 and on Facebook.

December 24, 2023,

10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude Carols

“Silver Bells”

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. City sidewalks, busy sidewalks
Dressed in holiday style
In the air there's a feeling
of Christmas
Children laughing, people passing
Meeting smile after smile
And on every street corner you'll hear | 2. Strings of streetlights, even stoplights
Blink a bright red and green
As the shoppers rush home
with their treasures
Hear the snow crunch, see the kids rush
This is Santa's big scene
And above all this bustle you'll hear |
|---|---|

Refrain: Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmas time in the city
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring, soon it will be Christmas day

“Frosty the Snowman”

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Frosty the Snowman,
was a jolly happy soul,
With a corn cob pipe
and a button nose,
and two eyes made of coal.
Frosty the Snowman,
is a fairytale, they say.
He was made of snow,
but the children know
how he came to life one day.
There must have been some magic in
that old silk hat they found,
For when they placed it on his head,
he began to dance around!
Oh, Frosty, the Snowman,
was alive as he could be;
and the children say
he could laugh and play,
just the same as you and me. | 2. Frosty the Snowman,
knew the sun was hot that day,
so he said, “Let's run,
and we'll have some fun
now, before I melt away.”
Down to the village,
with a broomstick in his hand,
Running here and there,
all around the square,
sayin', “Catch me if you can.”
He led them down the streets of town,
right to the traffic cop;
and only paused a moment, when
he heard him holler, “Stop!”
For Frosty, the Snowman,
had to hurry on his way,
But he waved goodbye,
sayin' “Don't you cry,
I'll be back again someday.” |
|---|---|

Thumpety thump, thump, thumpety thump, thump, look at Frosty go.
Thumpety thump, thump, thumpety thump, thump, over the hills of snow.

“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer”

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen
Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen
But do you recall the most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows
All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say
“Rudolph, with your nose so bright
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?”
Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee
“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
You'll go down in history!”

“Christmas Medley”

Matteo Faso, piano

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Call to Worship

Another Star, Another Night
by Richard S. Gilbert

Lighting of the Advent and Christmas Candles

Chalice Lighting

* Carol

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re-ceive her King; let ev - ery
2 Joy to the earth! the Sa - viour reigns: let all their songs em-ploy; while fields and
3 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions prove the glo - ries

The image shows a musical score for the carol 'Joy to the World'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three verses. The first verse is '1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re-ceive her King; let ev - ery', the second is '2 Joy to the earth! the Sa - viour reigns: let all their songs em-ploy; while fields and', and the third is '3 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions prove the glo - ries'. The music is a simple, joyful melody with a steady bass line.

heart pre - pare him room, and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 floods, rocks, hills and plains, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 of his right - eous - ness, and won - ders of his love, and
 heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

The Timeless Tale

The Christmas Story Introduction

by Rev. Quinn Caldwell Rayla Baldwin-Mattson,
 Director of Religious Education
 & Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

The Christmas Story

Adapted from
 "Christmas Eve Family Service"
 by Molly Housh Gordon and Jamilly Batchelder

Mary	Eve Beauvais
Angel	Haven Terry-Powley
Shepherd	Molly Nehil
Magi	Orion Arena

Part 1: The Baby Is Born

* Carol #1061

“For So the Children Come”

Each night a child is born is a ho - ly night: A time for

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The music is divided into three measures by bar lines. The first measure is in 4/4 time, the second in 3/4 time, and the third in 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

sing - ing, A time for won - der - ing, A time for wor - ship - ping,

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The music is divided into four measures by bar lines. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Each night a child is born is a ho - ly night.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The music is divided into four measures by bar lines. The lyrics are written below the notes.

(ho - ly night.)

Words: Sophia Lyon Fahs

Music: Jason Shelton, © 1998 Jason Shelton

Part II: The Angels Appear

* Offertory Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church,

online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or by text to 978-310-3309.

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O
2 — Lo, hum - ble shep - herds, hast - ing to his cra - dle, — leav - ing their
3 — Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, — sing, all ye

come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be - hold him,
flocks in the fields, draw near. We, too, with glad - ness,
ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove; glo - ry to God, all

Refrain
born the King of an - gels;
thith - er bend our foot - steps; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
glo - ry in the high - est;

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Part III: The Shepherds Arrive

* Carol

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled;
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long;
4 For, lo! the days are haste - ning on, by pro - phet bards fore - told,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
be - neath the heaven - ly strain have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold:

"Peace on the earth, to all good - will, from heaven the news we bring."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ering wing;
and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the tid - ings which they bring;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing.
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Part IV: The Wise Magi's Journey

* Carol

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

1 We three Kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
3 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
4 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship God most high.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
love for ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er in our hearts to reign.

O star of wond - er, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect night.

The Meaning of Christmas

Reflections & Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Candle Lighting

Reading

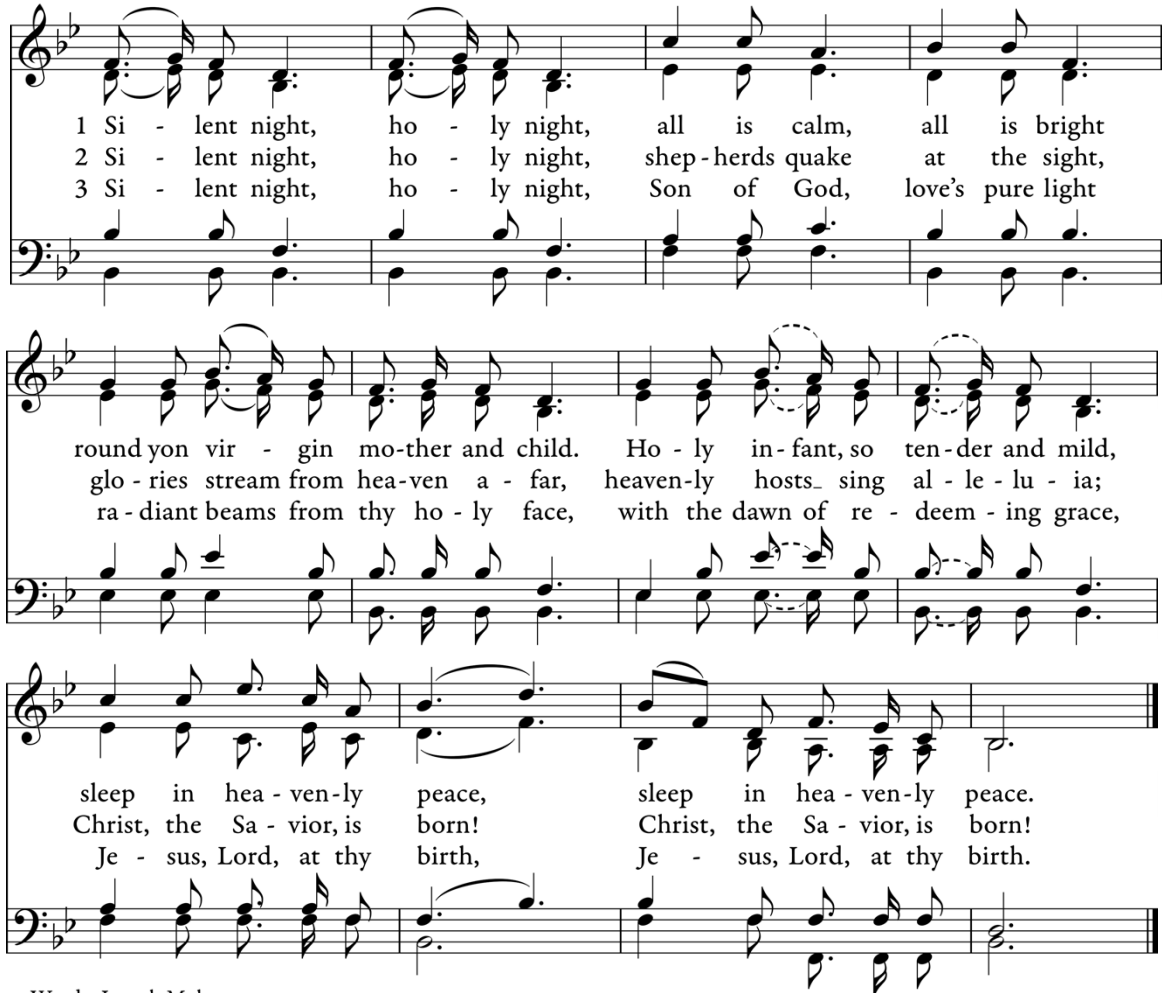
I Will Light Candles This Christmas

by Howard Thurman

* Passing of the Christmas Light

* Carol

Silent Night



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

round you vir - gin mo - ther and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, hea - ven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in hea - ven - ly peace, sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr

Music: *Stille Nacht*, Franz Xavier Grüber

* **Benediction**

The Work of Christmas
by Howard Thurman

Postlude

“Trepak” from *The Nutcracker*
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Trevor Berens &
Chris Hossfeld, piano



Thank you to:

Jenni Edgerton, Zoom Host
Lisa Rydin and Jeff Brown, Ushers;
and to our participants, staff and leadership



Our poinsettias today are given by

- ☼ Keshava Srivastava, for his beloved wife, Nollie
- ☼☼☼☼ Skip Warren for family and friends
- ☼☼ Jeff & Linda Brown for their parents, Persis & Gordon Brown
and Virginia & Robert Smith
- ☼ The Stadolnik Family for Shadow
- ☼ Rouly Constantzos for Andy Constantzos
- ☼☼☼ Sharon Brownfield & Rick Lent for Rick & Lillian Lent,
Rollin & Mary Lee Smith, and Gary R. Smith
- ☼ Sandra Mika for her sister, Jane Mika
- ☼ Marcia & Richard Allison for departed family
- ☼ Sharon Webb & Lisa Fagerstrom for Jim & Emily Webb & their parents;
Tony Webb; and John & Lori Fagerstrom & their parents
- ☼☼ Mary Evans for Helen & Dan Yuill, and Donna & Virgil Evans

☼ indicates number of plants

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

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Services Sunday at 10 am, in person and online

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and our email groups FPC Announce and FPC Forum, all at

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