

July 27, 2025
10:00 am

Gathering

Prelude "Joyful Ode" Trish Woods, Piano
by Bach/Olsen

Welcome & Announcements Shana Garr, Worship Host

Opening Words "Come in from the Wind" Lisa Fagerstrom,
by Heather Rion Starr Worship Leader

Chalice Lighting "Honoring Our Common
Connection and Our Uniqueness"
by Adam Slate

* **Hymn #188** "Come, Come Whoever You Are"

Centering

* **Covenant and Affirmation**

<i>(Spoken in unison)</i>	<i>(Sung in unison)</i>
Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.	From all that dwell below the skies Let words of love and peace arise
This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.	Let joyful songs of praise be sung, through every land, by every tongue.

Land Acknowledgement

Joys and Sorrows Ann Sadler, Lay Minister

Joys and sorrows is a time for the things on our hearts and minds to be heard by the gathered community. If you would like a follow-up call by a lay minister or the minister, email caring@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Meditation Reflections from: "A Lamentation..."
by the *Organizing Strategy Team*
of the UUA for "Side With Love"

* *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

* **Hymn #123** "Spirit of Life"
[Sing through 3 times]

Exploring

Reading Matthew 25:34-40

Sharing Our Gifts

In July and August we share our weekly offering with four recipients, **UU Trauma Response Ministry**, **UU Mass Action**, **Native Plant Trust**, and **Groton Hill Music Center**. 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.

Offertory "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"
by William Bradbury

Sermon "Reclaiming the 1st Century Jesus
in the 21st Century"

Returning

* **Hymn #163** "For the Earth Forever Turning"

* **Benediction** "Be a Branch of the Tree of Life"
by Norman Naylor

* **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 'til we meet again.

Postlude "For the World Forever Turning"
Kim Oler

Thank you

Webb Tinley, Zoom Host
Brendon Chetwynd, Tech Helper
Our ushers and helpers
Our staff and leadership

To our visitors, thank you for coming!

We hope you find what you're looking for and that you'll return. Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

- Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew or online (QR code)
- Visit our website, www.fpc-stow-acton.org. There is so much happening at FPC! Our homepage and the "Church Life" tab detail our events and programs.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletters and email groups (QR Code)



E-Newsletters

July/August Plate Sharing

- **UU Trauma Response Ministry** Provides culturally sensitive spiritual care to congregations after critical and traumatic events.
- **UU Mass Action** Organizes and mobilizes UUs in Massachusetts to confront oppression.
- **Native Plant Trust** Conserves and promotes New England's native plants to ensure healthy, biologically diverse landscapes.
- **Groton Hill Music Center** A community music school and performing arts venue hosting lessons, lectures, concerts, and recitals.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, July 27, 2025



The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister
Rayla Baldwin-Mattson, Director of Religious Education
Meg Rivers-Wright, Parish Administration & Membership
Chris Hossfeld, Music Director
Trevor Berens, Accompanist
Justin Marble, Nursery Care Coordinator
Mike Silkonis, Sexton
Brendon Chetwynd, President
Trisha Guditiz, Vice President
Bill Froberg, Treasurer
Johanna Pyle, Clerk

First Parish is a UU Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgender people into our community.

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.
In the Sanctuary, back rows with accessible seating are "mask-required."

On the web at fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.