

Sunday, December 11, 2022: 10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude *Andante in D Major* Sanghee Kim, organ
Felix Mendelssohn

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Sue Moses, Stewardship Committee

* **Hymn #28** *View the Starry Realm*

Call to Worship

Chalice Lighting and Advent Candles

* **Hymn #225** *O Come Emmanuel*

* **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

Message for All Ages *Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos* by Stephanie Roth Sisson and read by Marissa Evans, Acting DRE

Going Forth with the Light

Gloria

Introduction to Vivaldi Gloria Brad Dumont, Music Director

Reflection The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

* Rise in Body or Spirit

Sharing Our Gifts This month we share our weekly offering with FPC Guest Table. Checks may be made to “First Parish Church” or donate online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate> or by text to (978) 310-3309.

Vivaldi Gloria – Part I

1. Gloria in excelsis Deo, *Glory to God in the highest* (Chorus)
2. Et in terra pax, *and on earth peace* (Chorus)
3. Laudamus te, *We praise You* (Sopranos 1 and II)
4. Gratias agimus tibi, *We give You thanks* (Chorus)
5. Propter magnum gloria, *for Your great glory* (Chorus)
6. Domine Deus, *Lord God* (Soprano)

Pastoral Prayer and Candle Lighting

Reflection and Reading

Vivaldi Gloria – Part II

7. Domine, Fili unigenite, *Lord only begotten Son* (Chorus)
8. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, *Lord God, Lamb of God* (Alto, Chorus)
9. Qui tollis peccata mundi, *Who takes the sins of the world* (Chorus)
10. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, *Who sits at the right hand of the Father* (Alto)
11. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, *For You alone are holy* (Chorus)
12. Cum sancto spiritu, *with the Holy Spirit* (Chorus)

Returning

* **Responsive Reading Benediction #534** *Gloria!* by Barbara J. Pescan
Congregation reads sections in italics

* **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 Hymn #163** *For the Earth*

* Rise in Body or Spirit



Musicians

Krystal Morin, Soprano
Anne Squire, Violin 1
Susan Fiore, Viola
Amy Dinsmore, Oboe
Sanghee Kim, Organ

Jenny Cooper, Alto
Elena Spencer, Violin 2
Alex Ellsworth, Cello
Ryan Noe, Trumpet
FPC Adult Choir

Thank you to:

Kim Kinnear, Zoom Host,
Marcia Allison and Marion Scott, Ushers
Mark Koenig and Troy Liston, Coffee Hour Hosts
and to our staff and leadership

Our flowers today are given by Mark Koenig and Troy Liston,
in memory of Jackie Koenig and Debbie Staup



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.

**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW &
ACTON**



Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, December 11, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum,
Minister
Marissa Evans, Acting Director of
Religious Education
Marie Egan, Temporary Parish
Administrator
Brad Dumont, Music Director
Sanghee Kim, Organist/Pianist

Mike Silkonis, Sexton
Ben Child, Tech Assistant
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.

To help everyone be a part of worship in the fullest way possible, the ushers can provide large print orders of service and hymnals or, for people who need to step out during the service for any reason, an assisted listening device (portable radio) which works throughout the building.

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

ONLINE SUPPLEMENT PAGE

This page contains information specifically for folks joining us online!

FPC now has a closed captioning option in online services. If the Closed Captioning option is not turned on, you can use the button at the bottom of your screen to request that the host turn it on.



Today's Zoom Host: Kim Kinnear

Hymn #28 *View the Starry Realm*

1. View the starry realm of heaven,
shining distant empires sing.
Skysong of celestial children
turns each winter into spring,
turns each winter into spring.
2. Great you are, beyond conception,
God of gods and God of stars.
My soul soars with your perception,
I escape from prison bars,
I escape from prison bars.
3. You, the One within all forming
in my heart and mind and breath,
you, my guide through hate's fierce storming,
courage in both life and death,
courage in both life and death.
4. Life is yours, in you I grow tall,
seed will come to fruit I know.
Trust that after winter's snowfall
walls will melt and Truth will flow,
walls will melt and Truth will flow.

Hymn #225

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and with your captive children dwell.
Give comfort to all exiles here,
and to the aching heart bid cheer.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come within as Love to dwell.
2. O come, you Splendor very bright,
as joy that never yields to might.
O come, and turn all hearts to peace,
that greed and war at last shall cease.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.
3. O come, you Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your presence here.
And dawn in every broken soul
as vision that can see the whole.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.
4. O come, you Wisdom from on high,
from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care,
to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come within as Hope to dwell.

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

Benediction Responsive Reading #534 *Gloria!*

Gloria *The tenacity of Earth and its creatures.*

Kyrie eleison *These children who will go on to save what we cannot*

Baruch ata Adonai *The ordinary tenacity of plants and of people.*

Om. *The center of the universe which is everywhere,
not the least place in the human heart.*

Alleluia *Love that survives anger, and winter,
and despair, and sorrow, and even death.*

Shalom *Love that persists.*

Nam myo-ho renge kyo *Calm that is the seed in the dark.*

Amen *For endings that are beginnings, for beginnings that are endings.*

Alleluia *For the circle, the spiral, the web, the egg,
the orbit, the center, the seed, the flower, the fruit,
the opening, the death, the release, the seed.*

Amen *We are going on.*

Amen *It is going on.*

Amen *Blessed be.*

Postlude Hymn #163 *For the Earth Forever Turning*

1. For the earth forever turning;
for the skies, for ev'ry sea;
for our lives, for all we cherish,
sing we our joyful song of peace.
2. For the mountains, hills, and pastures
in their silent majesty;
for the stars, for all the heavens,
sing we our joyful song of peace.
3. For the sun, for rain and thunder,
for the seasons' harmony,
for our lives, for all creation,
sing we our joyful praise to Thee.
4. For the world we raise our voices,
for the home that gives us birth;
in our joy we sing returning
home to our blue green hills of earth.

Plate Sharing This Month: Guest Table

FPC Guest Table serves a free monthly community dinner on the second Friday of the month. We rely on donations to fund this monthly dinner which runs about \$250 per month. Guest Table does not receive funding from the general FPC budget. We offer community members with food insecurity issues another resource and offer a chance for fellowship and community building to guests and volunteers alike.



All are welcome to the following FPC weekly events

Coffee and Chat Tuesdays 10 - 11 am.

Meet at the Town Park adjacent to FPC. Bring your own coffee!

Meditation Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 pm Hall and online

Contact meditation@fpc-stow-acton.org for more information

Peace Vigil Thursdays 5 – 6 pm

Meet between Common Road and Great Road in front of FPC.

Contact Neil Saunders neilsaund@verizon.net for more info.

Bridge Group Fridays 1-3:30 pm Community Room. Contact Hector

Constantzos Hconstantzos@gmail.com for more information.

FPC Announcements: Sunday December 11, 2022

Today at FPC

10 am Service. Sanctuary/Online

10:15 am Religious Ed Prek-8th Grade Dismissed from Sanctuary to classes

11 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

11:15 am 11th Hour Climate Bell, in front of FPC after the service

12 pm Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry, Parlor/on-line

11th Hour Climate Bell. On the eleventh day of each month at 11AM, churches and communities across the Commonwealth are ringing bells for 11 minutes to signify the climate crisis we face

Spiritual Conversations Through Poetry. Gathering to read a poem and see where it takes us. <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-SCTP> Live link in Friday's *This Week at FPC* email.

This Week in Religious Education

Classes dismissed from Sanctuary during Service

PreK-1st and 2nd-5th grade will prepare for the Solstice Play next Sunday, with crafts, play rehearsal, and talking about the winter solstice.

Junior Youth will wrap up our month-long study of Christianity, and then meet to assign roles for the Solstice play.

High School Discussion Group will talk about personal finances.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, December 16th, 6:30-8:30pm

Club UU Holiday Party, Lower Hall

Junior Youth Holiday Party, Fellowship Hall

Parent Social Night, Vestry

Sunday, December 18th, 6:30-8:30pm

Senior Youth Holiday Party, Fellowship Hall

This Week at FPC: December 12-17

- Monday** Deadline for January *The Chronicle*
FPC Jazz Band Rehearsal, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary
Sounds of Stow Rehearsal, 7-9pm, Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday** Coffee and Chat 10 – 11 am. Town Gazebo
Racial Justice Task Force Meeting, 7-8 pm, online
FPC Women's Cookie Swap, 7-10 pm, Community Room
- Wednesday** Worship Committee, 12-1 pm, online
Meditation, 7:30-8:30 pm, Hall/Online
- Thursday** Peace Vigil, 5-6 pm, in front of FPC
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-9 pm, Sanctuary
- Friday** Bridge Group 1-3:30 pm, Community Room/Vestry
Club UU Holiday Party, 6:30-8:30 pm, Lower Hall
Junior Youth Holiday Party, 6:30-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Parent Social Night, 6:30-8:30 pm, Vestry
- Saturday** FPC Jazz Band Concert, 1:30 pm, New Horizons,
400 Hemenway St, Marlborough

Next Sunday's Service December 18, 2022, 10:00 am Sanctuary /Online
"Winter Wonder: The Solstice" – Marissa Evans, Acting Director of
Religious Education; Religious Education Participants;
& The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This year we forego our traditional "Mummers' Play," and instead our children and youth will share a new play scripted by Rev. Landrum about the meaning and beauty of the Solstice. It will feature a small "nod" to the Mumming tradition.

Join Worship by Video: <https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>
Meeting ID: 9990 7077 00266 Passcode: 01775
Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



Additional Announcements. Live links in *This Week at FPC* Friday email

Connect with First Parish Church. Sign our visitor's log at tinyurl.com/visittfpc

Services Sunday at 10 am, in person and online.

Subscribe to *The Chronicle*, our monthly emailed newsletter, *This Week at FPC*, our weekly Friday email, and our email groups FPC Announce and FPC Forum, all at <https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>



Check Friday email: *This Week at FPC* or follow FPC Announce for details of concerts fellow FPC members are participating in this month

Stewardship Drive. See insert in today's OOS for more information.


Women's Annual Cookie Swap. Sun Dec 13, 7 pm Community Rm
If you want to swap cookies, bring 3 dozen, NO NUTS. If you don't, join us for poems and stories read by Ann Sadler plus yummy appetizers (please RSVP to Diane Miller at millerdiane@comcast.net)

FPC Jazz Band. Saturday December 17, 1:30 pm
New Horizons, 400 Hemenway St. Marlborough

Guest at Your Table. UUSC program. Boxes to be returned at Christmas Eve Services. Additional box templates available in Connector lobby.

Christmas Eve Services, 4 pm and 9 pm. Come at 8:45 for an extended prelude. No Christmas Day Services.

Lost and Found. In stairwell between Youth Room and Parlor, on lower level.



Yes, it is that time again. When we ask members and friends to indicate their financial intentions for the next church year. First Parish Church is a self-sustaining congregation that relies on the generosity of members and friends to fund about 70% of our budget. Our goal as always is 100% member participation in our annual stewardship campaign. Our focus for the upcoming year will be to:

- Strengthen our music, art, and worship.
- Nurture our new staff through development opportunities.
- Deepen our commitment to our children and youth via strong RE programming.

Your pledge is a statement of intention to support FPC with a financial contribution. FPC establishes its annual budget based on amounts pledged by Members & Friends. However should circumstances change, you are free to amend your pledge at any time.

We are thankful for the FPC Community that sustains, supports, and celebrates with us. Join us in these goals by making a financial pledge at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/stewardship-pledge>

Or by submitting the pledge sheet on the back

Stewardship Pledge to First Parish Church of Stow and Acton

Our primary Stewardship goal this year is 100% member participation in the pledge drive.

Name _____
Date _____

I/We:


- Pledge \$_____ to First Parish Church for the next fiscal year (July 2023 - June 2024).
- Wish to make the above pledge a Renewing Pledge, which will carry over from year to year with an automatic annual increase of _____% per year.
- Request a Face-to-Face Stewardship meeting (especially recommended for those who are new to FPC).

Comments (optional):

Your pledge is a statement of intention to support FPC with a financial contribution.

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Thank-you for your Generosity to FPC!



GROWING CONNECTIONS

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