

Sunday November 27, 2022: 10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude *Moderato in A Major op.19 no.4 from Songs without Words*
F. Mendelssohn Sanghee Kim, piano

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome
Neil Saunders, Worship Committee Chair

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

Responsive Reading "The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
*and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,*
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
*I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief.*

I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light.

*For a time
I rest in the grace of the world,
and am free.*

*** Hymn #347** *Gather the Spirit*

** Rise in Body and Spirit*

***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 *The Black Dot* by Anonymous
Rev. Patricia Hatch, guest minister

Going Forth with the Light

Joys and Sorrows Ingrid Holcomb, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation

Words

Singing Bowl

Hymn # 123

Spirit of Life

Exploring

Reading *The Guest House* by Rumi

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with Supporting Asylum Seekers
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.

Anthem *Cuando el Pobre* Brad Dumont,
Music Director

Sermon *The Power and Perils of Positivity*
Rev. Patricia Hatch, guest minister

** Rise in Body and Spirit*

Returning

* **Hymn #128**

For All That Is Our Life

* **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.

Postlude

Sing to the Lord of Harvest
J. Sreurlein

Sanghee Kim, piano



Thank you to:

Hector Constantzos, Zoom Host; Joe Stadolnik, Tech Helper;
Mark Koenig & Troy Liston, Ushers
Johanna Pyle & Peter Karb, Coffee Hour Hosts
and to our staff and leadership

Our flowers today are given by Ingrid Holcomb & Neil Saunders,
honoring 20 years of the FPC Peace Vigil



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.

* *Rise in Body and Spirit*

**FIRST PARISH
CHURCH
OF STOW &
ACTON**

Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, November 27 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.



Zoom Host: Hector Constantzos

Hymn Lyrics

***Hymn #347**

Gather the Spirit

1. Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our sep'rate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

(Chorus) Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.
2. Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more. (Chorus)
3. Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one. (Chorus)

** Rise in Body and Spirit*

*** Hymn #123**

Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

*** Hymn #128**

For All Life

1. For all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise;
for all life is a gift which we are called to use
to build the common good and make our own days glad.
2. For needs which others serve, for services we give,
for work and its rewards, for hours of rest and love;
we come with praise and thanks for all that is our life.
3. For sorrow we must bear, for failures, pain, and loss,
for each new thing we learn, for fearful hours that pass:
we come with praise and thanks for all that is our life.
4. For all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise;
for all life is a gift which we are called to use
to build the common good and make our own days glad.

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

Announcements start next page.

Plate Sharing This Month: Supporting Asylum Seekers



The Supporting Asylum Seekers group is an active part of the Social Justice work of FPC. We work to support asylum seekers and refugees who seek a safe home in our surrounding communities. We greatly appreciate the Congregation's ongoing support and plate sharing!

This past year we have extensively helped a local family of 4 from Honduras. We raised money to hire a lawyer, who has filed and will represent them in their Asylum case. We have given funds for rent, and provided transportation, English language lessons, caring, advice, and friendship.

We also coordinate with UU Mass Action, the UU Service Committee, and UUSJ (UUs for Social Justice - UU Advocacy in the Nation's Capital) to work for political change toward our UU values, in our state and nation.

We have also expanded to help local Afghan evacuees/refugees and partnered with other area churches to sponsor and support these families. We meet by Zoom on the 1st Mondays of each month, and all are invited to join us for a meeting or for any of our actions. Contacts: Susie O'Brien or Steve Evans at asylumsupport@fpc-stow-acton.org

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 12:30-3:30 pm Community Room.

Contact Hector Constantzos Hconstantzos@gmail.com for more information.

Today at FPC: November 27, 2022

10 am Service, Sanctuary/Online

10:15 Dismissal of Religious Ed Students from Sanctuary to class

11 am Coffee Hour Hall, with Christmas flowers and tickets to New Revival Coffee House Thea Hopkins concert

This Week in Religious Education: Classes dismissed from Sanctuary
PreK-1st grade and 2nd-5th grade: Our theme this week is Lights of Winter, and we hear about winter celebrations from around the world. We learn about the science of how candles burn and roll beeswax candles of our own.

Junior Youth: We consider the common ground with Christianity and Unitarian Universalism, including the ideas of communion, sanctuary, and interconnectedness. Next Sunday is our visit to Acton Congregational Church.

Senior Youth are welcome to stay and enjoy the service, or help out with a younger class downstairs.

New Revival Coffeehouse Tickets on Sale Today at Coffee Hour

Tickets for the Thea Hopkins concert will be on sale on Nov. 20 & 27 for \$17. At the door, tickets will be \$20. Tickets are also available on [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). A member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe of Martha's Vineyard, Thea calls her music Red Roots Americana. See more at fpc-stow-acton.org/music/coffeehouse. The concert is Sat, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Flower Decorations Today at Coffee Hour

Marcia Allison will be taking orders for flowers to decorate the Sanctuary Christmas Eve. Poinsettias are now \$14 a plant.

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday December 24, 4 pm and 9 pm

No Services Sunday, December 25

This Week at FPC November 28-December 3

- Monday** Racial Justice Task Force Drop-in, 7 pm, online
Jazz Band Rehearsal, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary
Sounds of Stow Rehearsal, 7-9 pm Hall
- Tuesday** Coffee and Chat, 10 am, Gazebo in Town Park next to FPC
- Wednesday** Meditation, 7:30-8:30 pm, Hall and online
- Thursday** Hanging the Greens, 3-5pm throughout FPC
Peace Vigil, 5-6 pm, in front of FPC along Great Road
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15-9 pm Sanctuary
- Friday** Bridge Group, 1 -3:30 pm, Community Room/Vestry
- Saturday** Saturday Morning Breakfast in Afternoon, 2-3 pm online
New Revival Coffeehouse: Thea Hopkins, 7:30 pm Hall

Next Sunday's Service

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary and Online
“Wonder: the Historical Jesus” – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Unitarian Universalists are often curious about religious history, and what the historical analysis tells us is likely to have really happened. We'll take a look at the birth narrative of Jesus through a historical lens on this day. This service will include a recognition of World AIDS Day (December 1st).



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



Hanging the Greens. Thursday December 1, 3-5 pm. Join with FPC members and Rev. Cindy in decorating the church for Christmas! Hot chocolate and cookies provided for all helpful elves. Especially needed: help with wreaths on doors and organ.

Holiday Gift Drive for Residents of Domestic Violence Shelters. Labeled, unwrapped gifts must be turned in at the FPC atrium on **Friday, December 2nd, 3:00 - 6:00 pm**, or on **Saturday, December 3rd, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. Once again, FPC will be fulfilling the holiday wishes of the guests of two domestic shelters: Renewal House and Voices Against Violence. See details in *This Week at FPC*. As of Wed morning still 80 unclaimed gifts. Sign up now: <https://tinyurl.com/fpcgift2022> and remember to scroll down.

Saturday Morning Breakfast in Afternoon. Online only. Dec 3, **2 pm**.

New Revival Coffeehouse: Thea Hopkins. Dec 3, 7:30 pm. Doors open 7 pm At the door, tickets will be \$20. Tickets are also available on [eventbrite](https://eventbrite.com). A member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe of Martha's Vineyard, Thea calls her music Red Roots Americana. See more at fpc-stow-acton.org/music/coffeehouse.


Open Choir Rehearsal. Sunday Dec 4, 9 am. Child-care provided.

Carol Sing After the Service. Sunday Dec 4. Sanctuary

Guest Table. Friday Dec 9, 5:30 pm-6:30 pm ~ Doors open at 5
All are Welcome ~ No Charge

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 Diane Miller at millerdiane@comcast.net)

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



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):

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Thank-you for your Generosity to FPC!



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