



Sunday Worship

First Parish

A liberal religious community, welcoming to all

First gathered 1739

**February 5, 2023**

**Worship in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and Online**

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The sun rose at 6:55am and will set at 5:02pm *in sh'allah*  
bringing us 10 hours, 8 minutes of sunlight,  
17 minutes more than last Sunday.  
The moon is full today.

**Sounding of the Chime**

*In the sanctuary silence during the prelude is appreciated.  
Please also silence your cell phones and electronic devices.*

**Prelude**

*Introspection*  
by Felix Mendelssohn  
Kenneth Seitz, piano

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Erica Richmond  
Parish Minister

# Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting

Loren Gomez, Worship Associate

## Greeting Your Neighbor

Hymn 112

*Do You Hear?*

Time for All Ages

Rev. Erica Richmond

Tina Schultz

Director of Religious Education

*As children leave for religious education we sing:*

### Go Now in Peace

Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace, Go now in peace. May the spir-it of  
love sur - round you ev - ery - where, ev - ery - where you may go.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. A repeat sign is placed after the first two measures. The lyrics 'Go now in peace, Go now in peace. May the spir-it of' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics 'love sur - round you ev - ery - where, ev - ery - where you may go.' are written below the second staff.

Spoken Memorials

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan

Lead Minister

*On the first Sunday of the month the names of those in the community you died this year are read aloud. Those who died this month in the past are printed in the order of service.*

# Celebrations and Concerns

Christa Kelleher  
Lay Minister

If moved to do so, you may place a stone  
for a joy or sorrow you are holding in your heart.  
If you write a joy or sorrow on the card by your seat  
and hand it to the lay minister, the ordained and lay  
ministers will hold it in their thoughts and prayers.  
If you wish to have speak of your joy or sorrow,  
please line up after placing your stone.  
When you are motioned forward,  
speak into the microphone and say your name.  
Speak from your own experience  
and keep your comments brief.

## Interlude for the Placing of Stones

*Candle Music*  
By Kenneth Seitz  
Kenneth Seitz, piano

## Prayer and Silent Meditation

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan

## Musical Response

Amen, Blessed Be, Shalom, Salaam

Kenneth H. Seitz

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes: "A - men, Bles - sed Be, Sha - lom, Sa - laam. \_\_\_\_" on the first staff and "A - men, Bles - sed Be, Sha - lom, Sa - laam." on the second staff. The first staff ends with a long horizontal line, and the second staff ends with a double bar line.

## **Offering**

*The Dream Keeper*  
from *A Trilogy of Dreams*  
Words by Langston Hughes  
Music by Rollo A. Dilworth

*This Sunday half of the offering supports  
MotoMeds Healthline, an ‘off hours’ pediatric  
telemedicine and medication delivery service in  
Haiti. <https://www.motomeds.org/>  
The remaining half supports the life and work of  
this Parish.*

*To donate using your smartphone, you may text  
“fpuu offering” to 73256. Then follow the directions in  
the texts you receive. If you would like your entire  
offering to support your pledge, indicate “pledge” on  
your check or envelope.*

## **Introduction**

Rev. Erica Richmond  
*In our own Backyard*

## **Songbook 32**

*Keep on Moving Forward*

## **Reflections**

Tom Estabrook and Amy Anderson  
Rev. Erica Richmond

## **Songbook 35**

*Answering the Call*

## **Benediction**

***May faith in the Spirit of Life,  
Hope for the community of Earth,  
and Love of the sacred in one another  
Be ours now and in all the days to come.***

*Saying these words responsively is a custom at  
First Parish. You are invited to take the hand of  
one beside you or place your hand on their shoulder.*

## **Postlude**

*Looking Ahead*  
By Kenneth Seitz  
Kenneth Seitz, piano

*Our postlude is the concluding passage  
of our common worship.  
All are asked to remain seated during the postlude.*

*After worship those in the sanctuary are invited to move  
into the vestry for light refreshments and conversation.*

*If it is 11:30 parents are asked to quietly leave to pick up  
their children from the religious education program.*

## **You Sing My Hymn, I Sing Yours**

Welcome to worship at First Parish- whatever your story,  
wherever you are on your journey.

In worship we seek both affirmation and challenge, for these  
are necessary ingredients for spiritual growth and deepening.

We come with different theological and religious  
orientations, but we do not seek sameness or some common  
denominator. We engage in worship with open hearts and  
minds. Our sung and spoken words reflect a range of  
religious perspectives.

In worship, some elements will touch us deeply, and some  
will not. Whatever our personal preferences about the  
elements in any worship service, we say, *You sing my hymn,  
I sing yours.* In worship we give and receive.

The First Parish Worship Associates  
November 2015

From Ta-Nehisi Coates *Between the World and Me*, written as a letter to his son, Samori:

“I have raised you to respect every human being as singular, and you must extend that same respect into the past. Slavery is not an indefinable mass of flesh. It is a particular, specific enslaved woman, whose mind is active as your own, whose range of feeling is as vast as your own; who prefers the way the light falls in one particular spot in the woods, who enjoys fishing where the water eddies in a nearby stream, who loves her mother in her own complicated way, thinks her sister talks too loud, as a favorite cousin, a favorite season, who excels at dressmaking and knows, inside herself, that she is as intelligent and capable as anyone. ‘Slavery’ is this same woman born in a world that loudly proclaims its love of freedom and inscribes this love in its essential texts, a world in which these same professors hold this woman a slave, hold her mother a slave, her father a slave, her daughter a slave, and when this woman peers back into the generations all she sees is the enslaved. She can hope for more. She can imagine some future for her grandchildren. But when she dies, the world—which is really the only world she can ever know—ends. For this woman, enslavement is not a parable. It is damnation. It is the never-ending night. And the length of that night is most of our history. Never forget that we were enslaved in this country longer than we have been free.

Never forget that for 250 years black people were born into chains—whole generations followed by more generations who knew nothing but chains.

You must struggle to truly remember this past in all its nuance, error, and humanity. You must resist the common urge toward the comforting narrative of divine law, toward fairy tales that imply some irrepressible justice. The enslaved were not bricks in your road, and their lives were not chapters in your redemptive history. They were people turned to fuel for the American machine. Enslavement was not destined to end, and it is wrong to claim our present circumstance—no matter how improved—as the redemption for the lives of people who never asked for the posthumous, untouchable glory of dying for their children. Our triumphs can never compensate for this. Perhaps our triumphs are not even the point. Perhaps struggle is all we have because the god of history is an atheist, and nothing about his world is meant to be. So you must wake up every morning knowing that no promise is unbreakable, least of all the promise of waking up at all. This is not despair. These are the preferences of the universe itself: verbs over nouns, actions over states, struggle over hope.”

## **Music Director's Notes**

Rollo A. Dilworth (b.1970) is an African American conductor, composer and educator. He is Vice Dean and Professor of Choral Music Education in the Department of Music Education and Therapy at Temple University. He is an active clinician and presenter on topics including African American choral music, composing/arranging for choirs, social justice, urban music education, community engagement and DEI. He draws much of his inspiration from African American writers such as Langston Hughes and Paul Dunbar.

Langston Hughes (1901 – 1967) was an African American poet, novelist, writer, playwright and activist. His output was prolific during his lifetime, with many of his works drawing from his own experiences and those that he observed in the current day concerning politics, religion and racism. *The Dream Keeper* depicts the legend of a fictitious character whose role is to protect the dreams of those who are willing to hand over their deepest passions and heart-felt desires to him.

## Remembrances

February 2023

*During worship on the first Sunday of each month  
we remember loved ones who died that month in years past.*

Albert C. Weymann Jr.,  
father of Natalie Tyler, died February 16, 1985

Walter Gayeski  
Father of Mary Finn, died February 16, 1985

Ernst Bosslet,  
father of Sibylle Bosslet, died February 28, 1997

Marjorie Harrington,  
mother of Kit Harrington Hayes, died February 9, 2001

Marie Dannenberg,  
mother of Barbara Tosti, died February 23, 2004

Joanne Carlin Bradley,  
Mother of Liz Bradley, died February 26, 2002

Michele Gaetani,  
wife of Charles Saulnier, died February 6, 2006

Butch Redding,  
former First Parish Manager,  
died February 20, 2008

Joseph Gambino,  
father of Rosemarie Smurzynski, died February 27, 2009

Robert Anderson Jones,  
father of Scott Anderson Jones, died February 28, 2010

Richard Hunter,  
father of Elizabeth Hunter, died February 25, 2011

James Jackson,  
father of Marilyn Jackson, died February 18, 2012

Maurice Freedman,  
father of Melina Vanderpile, died February 9, 2016

Caroline Goff Prentiss,  
mother of Mara Prentiss, died February 24, 2017

Barbara Lumpkin Moore,  
mother of Susan Moore, died February 28, 2017

Sue Farmer,  
mother of Emily Farmer, died February 12, 2019

Tom Ladenburg,  
husband of Muriel Ladenburg, died February 2, 2020

Jane Junghans,  
mother of Lida Junghans, grandmother of Emma Perrow,  
died on February 12, 2020

Lydia Thayer  
First Parish member  
died on February 10, 2022

*If you would like a loved one remembered in future months,  
contact [spokenmemorials@firstparish.info](mailto:spokenmemorials@firstparish.info)*

## **First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington**

630 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476  
781-648-3799

**[www.firstparish.info](http://www.firstparish.info)**

First Parish is a liberal religious community witnessing to another way to be and act in our time. We are committed to spiritual growth within ourselves, side by side companionship of one another and turning outward in our work in the world.

As a Unitarian Universalist congregation, we believe personal experience, conscience and reason are final authorities in religion. We put religious insights to the test of our hearts and minds. We uphold the free search for truth. We are not bound to any statement of belief or creed but to our aspiration to act in love.

To learn more, visit the information table in the vestry after worship. There you can sign up for a weekly E-Bulletin. You may also sign up by sending your email address to [churchoffice@firstparish.info](mailto:churchoffice@firstparish.info)

To learn more about the activities of the church and see videos of the sermons, go to [www.firstparish.info](http://www.firstparish.info).

A religious education program for children meets during Sunday worship. Children are given the tools and resources with which to answer their religious questions of the world.

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Wednesday 10pm to 4pm,  
Thursday 12pm – 6pm,  
Friday 10am to 3pm

First Parish is a welcoming congregation, warmly and openly welcoming to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

First Parish is a proud voluntary member of  
the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

**[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)**

## **First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington**

First Parish is a meeting place for many. When the meetinghouse was closed due to COVID, our sanctuary was used by FoodLink to distribute food to the hungry. Community music groups have returned to rehearse here. Social Justice groups organize within our walls. Each Sunday we give half our offering to good causes in the larger community. To date we have donated more than \$175,000.

First Parish is supported by members and friends who contribute their time, talent and treasure and is independent and self-governing. The elected Parish Committee (“ParCom”) acts as the governing board. The ParCom Chair and Vice-Chair can be contacted at Parishexec@firstparish.info.

Sara Galantowicz, Chair  
Joanna Pushee, Clerk  
Allan Tosti  
Jeff Keffer  
Marie Meteer

Anne Quaadgras, Vice-Chair  
Carolyn Hodges, Treasurer  
Tom Estabrook  
Celia Wcislo

Staff serve the members, leaders and mission of First Parish.

*Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Lead Minister*  
*leadminister@firstparish.info*

*Rev. Erica Richmond, Parish Minister*  
*parishminister@firstparish.info*

*Tina Schultz, Director of Religious Education*  
*dre@firstparish.info*

*Jonathan Colby, Director of Music*  
*musicdirector@firstparish.info*

*Kenneth Seitz, Director of Music, Emeritus*

*Rowan Wheeler, Religious Education Assistant*  
*Rose Sawyer Marsh, Youth Program Coordinator*

*youthadvisor@firstparish.info*

*Sara Hidalgo, Office Manager*  
*officemanager@firstparish.info*

*Joe Cook, Office and Communications Associate*  
*office@firstparish.info*

*Jose Ferraz, Sexton*

*Rev. Wendy Page, Affiliate Minister*