

Sunday Worship First Parish A liberal religious community, welcoming to all First gathered 1739

February 9, 2025

Worship in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary and Online

The sun rose at 6:49am and will set at 5:08pm *in sh'allah* bringing us 10 hours, 19 minutes of sunlight, 17 minutes more than last Sunday.

The moon is waxing to its fullness on Wednesday.

For Jewish people Wednesday is TuB'Shevat, a midwinter celebration of the new year of trees, sometimes referred to as "Jewish Earth Day."

For Muslims Friday is Laylat al-Bara'ah, or Night of Repentance. On this night God is said to grant the forgiveness of sins.

Friday is Valentine's Day which began as a Christian feast day to honor a Christian martyr named Valentine.

For Buddhists of the Northern tradition Saturday is Nirvana Day commemorating the death of the Buddha.

Sounding of the Chime

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

Prelude

Sanctus Franz Joseph Haydn First Parish Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Lead Minister

Greeting Your Neighbor

Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting

Bill Licea Kane, Worship Associate

Congregational Affirmation

We choose to be a liberal religious community, welcoming to all. We encourage each other on our spiritual journeys,

support one another through the changes in our lives, and challenge the excesses and injustices of our time.

Called to love and upheld by joy, we live our faith.

Adopted by the members of First Parish Arlington MA
March 28, 2010

Hymn 10

Immortal Love

Time for All Ages

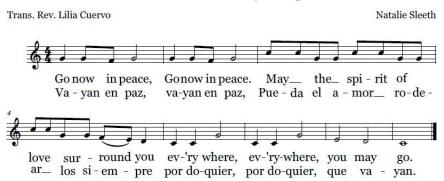
Rev. Stevie Carmody Minister of Religious Education

As children leave for religious education we sing:

Go now in peace, go now in peace. May the spirit of love surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Vayan en paz, vayan en paz Pueda el amor rodear los siempre por doquier, por doquier que vayan.

Go Now in Peace -- Vayan en paz



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 available at the back of the sanctuary, the ordained and lay ministers will hold it in their thoughts and prayers. If you wish to speak of your joy or sorrow, please line up after placing your stone.

When you are motioned forward, speak into the microphone and tell us your name. Speak briefly and from your own experience.

Interlude for the Placing of Stones

Grace

Diane Taraz, soloist

Prayer and Silent Meditation

Bill Licea-Kane, Worship Associate

Musical Response

Amen, Blessed Be Kenneth Seitz, piano

Words: *Amen, Blessed Be. Shalom, Salaam.* Sung twice by the congregation

Amen, Blessed Be, Shalom, Salaam

Kenneth H. Seitz



Offering

What Is the Wind? Traditional Scottish song Diane Taraz, soloist

This Sunday half of your offering supports the Arlington Youth Counseling Center (AYCC). AYCC is the leading provider of outpatient and school-based child and adolescent mental health services in Arlington. AYCC is committed to delivering outstanding, equitable and accessible mental health services to ensure all youth and families have access to culturally sensitive and high-quality care, regardless of their ability to pay.

The remaining half of your offering 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.

Responsive Reading

written by Rev. John Morgan lead by Rev. Marta Flanagan The congregation responds with the words in italics

In the end it won't matter how much we have,

but how generously we have given.

It won't matter how much we know,

but rather how well we live.

And it won't matter how much we believe,

but how deeply we love.

Hymn 131

Love Will Guide Us

Sermon

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan

Song 21

Life Calls Us On

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

Somebody Loves Me George Gershwin 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

<u>First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington</u> www.firstparish.info

First Parish is a liberal religious community working toward another way to be and act in our time. As a Unitarian Universalist congregation (www.uua.org), we are not bound to any statement of belief or creed but to an aspiration to act in love. We believe personal experience, conscience and reason are final authorities in religion.

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

To learn more, visit the information table after worship. You can sign up for the weekly E-Bulletin there or by emailing *churchoffice@firstparish.info*

First Parish is self governing and supported by members and friends who contribute their time, talent and treasure. The elected Parish Committee ("ParCom") is the governing board. ParCom can be reached at *Parishexec@firstparish.info*.

Anne Quaadgras, Chair John Anderson, Vice-Chair Joanna Pushee, Clerk Carolyn Hodges, Treasurer Jeff Keffer Steve McMullin Susan Moore Allan Tosti Kate Tranquada

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

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, Lead Minister
Rev. Erica Federspiel Richmond, Parish Minister (on leave)
Rev. Tricia Brennan, Adjunct Minister
Rev. Stevie Carmody, Minister of Religious Education
Daniel Parsley, Music Director
Kenneth Seitz, Director of Music, Emeritus
Rose Sawyer Marsh, Youth Program Coordinator
Bella Jaffe, Religious Education Assistant
Ebiere Omoregie, Office Manager
Allison Sillers, Office & Communications Associate
Jaqueline De Jesus, Sexton
Rev. Wendy Page, Affiliate Minister

A Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation, First Parish warmly and intentionally welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer and transgender people.