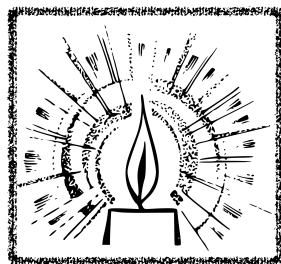


First Parish
A liberal religious community,
welcoming to all
First gathered 1739



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Services at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

Ushers at the four o'clock service are:
Jeanne Feeley, Liz Blumenthal, Judy Dyer, Tina Schultz,
Carolyn White, Marc Fredette, and Brian Miller

Ushers at the six o'clock service are:
Lois Fine, Lori Kenschaft, Dorothy Anger,
Fae Kramer, Tali Avery, Lynn Rosenbaum,
Aaron and Leon Kitzmiller, and Al Tosti

ASL Interpreters at the four o'clock service are
Rachel Judelson and Rebecca Kranz.

Prelude

Prelude on *Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming*
Johannes Brahms
Prelude on the *Resonet in Laudibus*
Guy Bovet
Prelude on *Bring a Torch*
Christopher Uehlein
Mark Nelson, guest organist

Lighting of the Chalice and Ringing of the Bell

*The historic First Parish bell is struck nine and then four
times for the nine hours and four minutes of sunlight today.
The church bell was saved from the church fire in 1975.*

The chalice is a symbol of our liberal faith dating to the heresies of Jan Hus in sixteenth-century Czechoslovakia.

Jan Hus welcomed all to the communion table and spoke not in Latin but in the people's tongue.

The chalice of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee was also a symbol of safety for refugees of Nazi Europe.

The silver bowl we use as our chalice dates from 1852 and was used by The First Congregational Church of West Cambridge, earlier names of First Parish and of Arlington.

Hymn 253

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, o come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

venite adoremus, [*O come let us adore him*]

venite adoremus, [*O come let us adore him*]

venite adoremus Dominum

[*O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*]

Lo, humble shepherds, hasting to his cradle,

leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.

We, too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps;

venite adoremus, [*O come let us adore him*]

venite adoremus, [*O come let us adore him*]

venite adoremus Dominum

[*O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

venite adoremus, [*O come let us adore him*]

venite adoremus, [*O come let us adore him*]

venite adoremus Dominum

[*O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*]

Greetings

led by Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong
Interim Lead Minister
With words from Rev. Quinn G. Caldwell

Passing of Peace and Joy

Musical Interlude

In the Bleak Midwinter
Gustav Holst, arr. Archer
Mark Nelson, organist and Brendan Mathieson, trumpet

Prayer

Rev. Erica Richmond
Parish Minister

Offering

Believe from “The Polar Express”
Glen Ballard
Lucas Fernandez, bass
Mark Nelson, piano

*The full amount of your gifts will support the work of **Renewal House**, a domestic violence shelter for individuals in crisis and their children. Since 1980 Renewal House has provided temporary emergency shelter and advocacy services as part of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry.*

To donate by credit card, debit card, or bank account using your smartphone text:

FPUU RENEWAL to 73256.

Then follow the directions in the texts you receive.

Homily

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong

Lessons and Carols

I Expectancy

Luke 2:1-12

read by Lauren McNeill at 4:00 pm

read by Genevieve Baldwin at 6:00 pm

Hymn 237

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds,
in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the king of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east
beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the king of Israel.

And by the light of that same star,
Three magi came
from country far;
To seek a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the king of Israel.

II Glory Be!

Luke 2:13-20

read by Connor Walsh at 4:00 pm

read by Rose Rising at 6:00 pm

Hymn 244

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will,
from heaven the news we bring."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on
by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
comes round the age of gold:
When peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

III Completely Up to Us

Each Night a Child is Born
by Sophia Lyon Fahs
read by Rev. Stevie Carmody
Minister of Religious Education

Hymn 228

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed;
So may we when life turns hard
find in love our stay and guard.

Shepherds came to see this wonder,
and to kneel in holy awe
At that lowly stable manger
where the infant lay on straw;
So may we this happy morn
honor every child that's born.

In that happy Christmas spirit,
hear the angels from on high
Sing their ancient salutations:
joy's a gift you cannot buy.
So may we, with hearts that sing,
share the truth this season bring

Candle Lighting Ceremony

*Each person in turn lights the candle of the
one beside them until all the candles are lit.*

Musical Offering during Candle Lighting

Prelude on the *Silent Night, Holy Night*

Guy Bovet

Mark Nelson, guest organist

Hymn 251

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Child of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Joy to the World! The Word is come:
Let earth with praises ring.
Let every heart prepare a room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! Now gladness reigns:
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
Let righteousness its glories show
As far as love is found,
As far as love is found,
As far, as far, as love is found.

Closing Words**Postlude**

Postlude on *God Rest Ye, Merry*
Wilbur Held
Mark Nelson, organist
Brendan Mathieson, trumpet

Thank you for worshiping at First Parish this evening!
You may depart during the postlude.

All are welcome to worship every Sunday at 10am
in the sanctuary or online.

Christmas Poinsettias

*Poinsettias are donated each year
by members and friends of First Parish*



Given by Pamela Baldwin
in memory of beloved aunt
Pamela H. Bergen

Nina Duncan for CLGD-AJG

Given by Judy Dyer for the Dyer and Ryan
family members in heaven

Given by Anthony Fernandez
in loving memory of Mary Margaret Franclemont
from the Fernandez / Kelleher family

Given by John and Sara Galantowicz, in honor of
Tom and Mary Galantowicz

Given by Peggy Gardiner in honor of the Lay Ministers

Given by Loren Gomez, remembering my brother,
Phil Gomez

Jim Jolley and Julie Jalelian and their family
would like to honor Yolanda Jolley (Jim's Mother)
and Lincoln Jalelian (Julie's Father).
They are missed immensely. We are grateful for their lives!

In appreciation of Papa, Grammy, and Grampy
with love from Lucas and Toby Fernandez

Given by Kate Lenox in memory of my parents,
Rose and Jim Lenox

Given by Liz McKersie for my Dad, Bob McKersie
and in memory of my mom, Nancy

Given by Sarah Quick and Logan Castrucci in honor of our parents

Given by Jean Rosenberg in honor of Peter A. Southwick

*You are welcome to take your poinsettias home
following the 6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service.*

Life at First Parish

First Parish is committed to inward spiritual growth,
side by side companionship of one another, and
turning outward in our work in the world.

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*

First Parish is a liberal religious community
Working toward 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.

First Parish is a meeting place for many in the area.
When the meetinghouse was closed due to COVID,
our sanctuary was used by FoodLink to distribute food to
the hungry. Many community music groups perform here.
Social Justice groups organize within our walls. Each Sunday
we give half our offering to good causes in the community.
To date we have donated more than \$250,000.

With more than 400 adult members and 125 children and
youth, First Parish is a bustling and committed community.
Check out our website www.firstparish.info and join us for
Sunday worship at 10 am in the meetinghouse or online.

First Parish operates with the generous support
and leadership of many volunteers, staff,
and an ordained ministry team consisting of
Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong as Interim Lead Minister,
Rev. Erica Federspiel Richmond as Parish Minister, and
Rev. Stevie Carmody as Minister of Religious Education.

Religious Education at First Parish

Religious Education for children, in grades PreK through Seven, meets during Sunday worship. The Nursery is open for babies and toddlers. Carefully selected curriculum, based on Unitarian Universalist values, encourages the children to think beyond themselves, to delve deeper into spiritual and theological ideas, and to connect with trusted adults with whom they can share their thoughts. Children are given the tools and resources with which to answer their religious questions, study the natural world, and ponder the mystery and awe of the universe.

Middle and High School teens meet on Sunday evenings. We offer a comprehensive Sexuality Education program (OWL) for our 7th graders and Coming of Age program for those in 8th grade. Our high school youth group program is based on a Teen Empowerment model in which the teens elect officers, collectively make decisions about the content of their weekly gatherings, serve others, worship together, and build strong bonds with their peers. Please contact Rev. Stevie Carmody, Minister of Religious Education, with questions (stevie.carmody@firstparish.info).

Music at First Parish

There are many musical opportunities at First Parish, and new members are welcome. We have an active Adult Choir, children/youth, and instrumental opportunities throughout the year. To join our email lists, please email music@firstparish.info and let us know your musical interests.

Our Adult Choir sings most Sundays from September-June. We explore a wide variety of music. We are glad to welcome new members (grade 9 to adult). January is a particularly good time to join. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 6:45 pm - 8:00 pm and meet at 9:00 am on Sundays for a warm-up rehearsal. Please contact the First Parish Music Director, Dr. Daniel Parsley, if you would like to join us (daniel.parsley@firstparish.info).

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington

www.firstparish.info

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*

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. To learn more about our community, visit our website
at firstparish.info.

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

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong, *Interim Lead Minister*

Rev. Erica Federspiel Richmond, *Parish Minister*

Rev. Stevie Carmody, *Minister of Religious Education*

Dr. Daniel Parsley, *Music Director*

Kenneth Seitz, *Director of Music, Emeritus*

Kay Milano, *Youth Program Coordinator*

Bella Jaffe, *Religious Education Assistant*

Ebiere Omoregie, *Office Manager*

Allison Sillers, *Office & Communications Associate*

Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan, *Minister Emerita*

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