

**Order of Service**  
First Parish in Concord  
December 3, 2023

**Prelude** “Chorale Prelude: Wachet auf!, BWV 645” by Johann Sebastian Bach  
– D. Eric Huenneke, organist

**Welcome & Announcements** – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

**Opening Hymn #226** “People, Look East”

**Call to Worship, Chalice, and Advent Wreath Lighting** – Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

I will light candles this season.  
Candles of joy, despite all sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all the year long.  
—Howard Thurman (adapted)

**Wisdom Story**

*(Children depart for religious exploration)*  
Let us open our eyes to see what is beautiful,  
Let us open our minds to seek what is true;  
Let us open our hearts to love one another  
And may we walk in peace.

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory** “Pastorale on *Forest Green*” (Hymn 57) by Richard Purvis

*To give to the Offering via text message, send a text to 855-691-2592.*

**Reading #688** “Hold On To What Is Good” by Nancy Wood

**Anthem** “Creator of the Stars of Night” by Kurt Meyer – The Lincoln Ringers,  
Diane Burke, Director

**Sermon** “Benediction Part III: Courage and Goodness” – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

**Anthem** “O Magnum Mysterium” by Cathy Moglebust

## Parish Concerns, Calling of Names, & Prayer

### Silence

#### Responsive Hymn #352

Find a stillness, hold a stillness,  
let the stillness carry me.  
Find the silence, hold the silence,  
let the silence carry me.  
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,  
I will find true harmony.

### Closing Words

#### Closing Hymn #57 “All Beautiful the March of Days”

#### Benediction

Go out into the world in peace  
Have courage  
Hold on to what is good  
Return to no person evil for evil  
Strengthen the faint-hearted  
Support the weak  
Help the suffering  
Honor all beings

#### Postlude “Improvisation on Wachtet auf!” by Paul Manz

*We invite you to stay seated as our service concludes with the postlude.*

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#### Benediction



*Please scan the QR code on the left with your camera to share your feedback on the Benediction for next Sunday's service.*

*Please scan the QR code on the right to offer feedback about the new technology in the sanctuary.*

#### Sanctuary Tech



*Many people contribute to making our Sunday worship services a smooth and meaningful experience, both in person and on Zoom. Thank you to the many volunteers who give generously of their time, including our ushers and Zoom chat hosts. Thanks also to our staff worship team:*

*Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd  
Interim Senior Minister*

*Beth Norton  
Director of Music Ministry*

*Arkadiy Bar  
AV Technician*

*Rev. Liz Weber  
Minister for Congregational Care*

*Eric Huenneke  
Organist*

*David Wisniewski  
AV Technician*

*Rev. Amy Freedman  
Minister of Religious Education*

*Anderson Manuel  
Gospel Choir Director*

*Catherine Hill  
Web & Office Administrator*

*Rev. Paul Langston-Daley  
Minister of Social Action*

*Dawn Van Patten  
Asst. Dir. of Religious Education*

*Bruce Davidson  
Facilities Manager*