

Order of Service
First Parish in Concord
January 7, 2024

Prelude *Sonata in C minor* by Joseph Haydn – David Owens, piano
i) *Moderato*

Welcome & Announcements – Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Search Committee Update

Opening Hymn #207 *Earth Was Given as a Garden*

Call to Worship – Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

Chalice Lighting

Unison Response:

O flame of our faith, open our hearts
And fill our bodies and souls with persistent strength.
Enliven our spirits and engage us deeply in this life of ours,
This sacred essential moment now.

— Paul Sawyer

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 – Kim Yeasir, THRIVE Chief Empowerment Officer

Offertory *Reminiscence, Op. 68, no 30* by Robert Schumann

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

Reading From “White Fragility” by Robin D’Angelo

Anthem *Sow it on the Mountain*, Traditional, arr. W. Schmidt – First Parish Choir

Sermon “The Gardener’s Guide to Racial Justice” – Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

Anthem *A Time for All Things* by Douglas Wagner

Parish Concerns, Calling of Names, & Prayer

Silence

Responsive Hymn #352 *Find a Stillness*

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.

Seek the essence, hold the essence, let the essence carry me.
Let me flower, help me flower, watch me flower, carry me.
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,
I will find true harmony.

Closing Words

Closing Hymn #121 *We'll Build a Land* (vs. 1, 2, 4)

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 *Gigue* by G.F. Handel

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

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 Barshteyn
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*