

**Order of Service**  
**First Parish in Concord**  
January 28, 2024

**Prelude** *Two Reminiscences (from Op. 68)* by Robert Schumann – David Owens, piano

**Welcome & Announcements** – Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

**Opening Hymn #389** *Gathered Here*

**Call to Worship** by Rev. Kathleen McTigue

**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** – Rev. Amy Freedman

*(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** *Sonata in F Minor, Op. 120, no. 1 ii) Andante, un poco Adagio* by Johannes Brahms –  
Nancy Ackerman, clarinet

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

**Reading** “Choose to Bless the World” by Rebecca Parker – Cindy Soule

**Interlude** *Sonata in F minor, Op. 120, no. 1 iii) Ländler* by Johannes Brahms

**Sermon** “True, Kind, Necessary?” – Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

**Interlude** *Cantique* by Flor Peeters

**Parish Concerns, Calling of Names, & Prayer**

**Silence**

**Responsive Hymn #123** *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion,  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

**Closing Words** by Octavia Butler

**Closing Hymn #323** *Break Not the Circle*

**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** *Chorale Prelude, Löbe den Herrn* by J.G. Walther

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

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*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*