

Order of Service

First Parish in Concord

June 23, 2024

Prelude *Improvisations on “All is Well with My Soul” & “Here I am, Lord”* by John Carter
– Eric Huenneke, keyboard

Opening Hymn “There’s a River Flowing in My Soul” by Faya Rose Toure

Call to Worship & Unison Chalice Lighting – Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

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 “My Shadow is Purple” by Scott Stuart – Rev. Amy Freedman

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *Everything Possible* by Fred Small – Beth Norton, voice and guitar

CHORUS:

You can be anybody you want to be
You can love whoever you will
You can travel any country where your heart leads
And know I will love you still
You can live by yourself, you can gather friends around
You can choose one special one
And the only measure of your words and your deeds
Will be the love you leave behind when you’re done

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

Readings from the NRSVUE Translation of the Bible

Acts 10:34-35

Matthew 22:35-40

Sermon “By Our Love” – Rev. Rebecca Floyd Marshall

Song “I’m Gonna Lift My Sister Up” by Faya Rose Toure – Pride Pop-up Choir, Beth Norton,
Director

Prayer

Silence

Responsive Hymn “You Are Loved” by Gretchen Haley and Jason Shelton

You are loved in this moment, safe whole and loved.
You belong here, upon this earth.
However tired or broken, angry or afraid,
You are loved and you are not alone.

Introduction to the Blessing “What Does it Mean to Bless” by Eric Williams

Glitter Blessing “You are loved and you are not alone”

Closing Words

Closing Hymn “Come and Go With Me To that Land” (African American Spiritual)

Extinguish Chalice & 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 “Brother James’ Air”* by John Carter

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 the First Parish Choir, flower committee, ushers, and Zoom chat hosts. Thanks also to our staff worship team:

*Rev. Elizabeth Ide
Minister for Congregational Care*

*Eric Huenneke
Organist*

*Arkadiy Barshteyn
AV Technician*

*Rev. Amy Freedman
Minister of Religious Education*

*Anderson Manuel
Gospel Choir Director*

*Ben Pincus
AV Technician*

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

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

*Catherine Hill
Web & Office Administrator*

*Beth Norton
Director of Music Ministry*

*David Wisniewski
AV Technician*

*Bruce Davidson
Facilities Manager*

