

Order of Service
First Parish in Concord
September 22, 2024

Prelude “La Vita e bella” (Life is Beautiful) by Nicola Piovani – Simon Andrews, piano

Welcome and Announcements – Rev. Elizabeth Ide

Opening Hymn #128 “For All that Is Our Life”

Call to Worship – Rev. Jennifer Johnson

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

Time for All Ages – Rev. Amy Freedman

(Young people depart for Religious Exploration)

Song: “Let Us Open Our Eyes” by Elizabeth Norton
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.

Anthem “Blessed” by Lui Collins – First Parish Choir, Beth Norton, Director

Invitation to Offering – John Cratsley for The Outdoor Church

Offertory “Prière à Notre Dame” by Léon Boëllman

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

Sermon “Reaching for Sweetness” – Rev. Jennifer Beth Johnson

Anthem “Blessing” by Rabbi Abraham Heschel (words) and Joan Szymko (music)

Parish Concerns, Calling of Names, and Prayer

Silence

Response #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

Closing Hymn #108 “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

Unison 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 “Dialogue No. 1” by Peter Hurford

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

Please join us for coffee and social time after the service.

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. Jennifer Beth Johnson
Lead Minister*

*Simon Andrews
Organist*

*Ben Pincus
AV Technician*

*Rev. Elizabeth Ide
Minister for Congregational Care*

*Anderson Manuel
Gospel Choir Director*

*Catherine Hill
Web & Office Administrator*

*Rev. Amy Freedman
Minister of Religious Education*

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

*Bruce Davidson
Facilities Manager*

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

*Arkadiy Barshteyn
AV Technician*

*Beth Norton
Director of Music Ministry*

*David Wisniewski
AV Technician*