

# **Order of Service**

## **First Parish in Concord**

September 29, 2024

**Prelude** “Ach Gott und Herr” by J.S. Bach – Simon Andrews, organ

**Welcome and Announcements** – Rev. Elizabeth Ide

**Opening Hymn #126** “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

**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

**Reading** from “The Sum of Us” by Heather McGhee

**Anthem** “My Soul is a River” by Ben Allaway – First Parish Choir, Beth Norton, Director

**Sermon** “Small Gifts and Necessary Promises: a reflection on 10 years at UUUM” – Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

**Anthem** “Al Shlosa D’varim” by Alan Naplan

*Translation: “The world is sustained by truth, justice and peace” from the Pirkei Avot*

### **Parish Concerns, Calling of Names, and Prayer**

#### **Silence**

**Response #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.

**Invitation to Offering** – John Cratsley for The Outdoor Church

**Offertory** “Balm in Gilead” traditional, arr. Kurt Kaiser

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

**Closing Words**

**Closing Hymn #1018** “Come and Go With Me to that Land”

**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** “No. 6 from *Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm*” by Bartók Bela

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

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

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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 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*