

**Order of Service**  
First Parish in Concord  
October 20, 2024

**Prelude** "Sometimes I feel like a motherless child" traditional Spiritual arranged by Kurt Kaiser  
Simon Andrews, organist

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

**Opening Hymn #347** “Gather the Spirit”

**Call to Worship** – Rev. Jennifer Beth 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**

*(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.

**Parish Concerns, Calling of Names, and Prayer** – Rev. Elizabeth Ide

**Prayer** – Rev. Jennifer Beth Johnson

**Silence**

**Responsive Hymn #1002** “Comfort Me”

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory** Adagio assai (from Piano Concerto in G) by Maurice Ravel

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

**Reading** “Wild Geese” by Mary Oliver

**Anthem** – ‘There Always Something Sings’ - words by R.W. Emerson/music by Sarah Quartel  
First Parish Choir, Beth Norton, Director

**Sermon** “Tell Me About Despair” by Rev. Jennifer Beth Johnson

**Anthem** – “Songs from Silence” by Elaine Hagenberg

1. Song of My Heart
2. Sir the Embers

**Closing Words** – Rev. Jennifer Beth Johnson

**Closing Hymn #18** “What Wondrous Love”

**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** Voluntary in D by John Stanley

*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*

*Beth Norton  
Director of Music Ministry*

*Ben Pincus  
AV Technician*

*Rev. Elizabeth Ide  
Minister for Congregational Care*

*Simon Andrews  
Organist*

*Catherine Hill  
Communications & Office  
Coordinator*

*Rev. Amy Freedman  
Minister of Religious Education*

*Anderson Manuel  
Gospel Choir Director*

*Arkadiy Barshteyn  
AV Technician*

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

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

*David Wisniewski  
AV Technician*