FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

Prelude: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme by J.S. Bach

Simon Andrews, organist

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn #118: This Little Light of Mine

led by Anderson Manuel

Call to Worship: Rev. Jennifer Johnson

Unison Chalice and Advent Candle Lighting:

Unison Response:

I will light candles this Christmas

Candles of joy, despite all sadness,

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

Candles of courage for fears ever present,

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,

Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,

Candles of love to inspire all my living,

Candles that will burn all the year long.

— Howard Thurman (adapted)

Time for All Ages:

"Let Us Open Our Eyes" by Elizabeth Norton

SONG: 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 & Prayer:

Rev. Elizabeth Ide

Responsive Hymn #1048: Ubi Caritas

Invitation to Offering: Worthy Now, a ministry of the Church of

the Larger Fellowship

Offertory: Coventry Carol, trad. English, *arr*. Mark Kellner *To give to the Offering via text message, send a text to* 855-691-2592.

Reading: "On Empathy" by Brené Brown

Anthem: "Still, Still, Still" - German carol, arr. Cathy Moklebust

The Lincoln Ringers, Diane Burke, director

Sermon: "The Gift of Presence" by Rev. Jennifer Johnson

Anthem: "Night of the Father's Love"- arr. Pepper Choplin

Closing Words

Closing Hymn #131: Love Will Guide Us

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

Support the weak Help the suffering Honor all beings

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Postlude: Now the Green Blade Riseth - arr. Kevin McChesney

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

First Parish in Concord

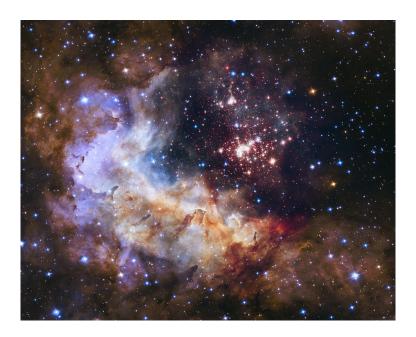
A Unitarian Universalist congregation

20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 02840

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
Rev. Elizabeth Ide, Minister for Congregational Care
Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education
Dawn Van Patten, Assistant Director of Religious Education
Elizabeth Norton, Director of Music Ministry
Simon Andrews, Organist
Anderson Manuel, Gospel Choir Director
Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, Minister of Social Action
David Wisniewski, AV Technician
Arkadiy Barshteyn, AV Technician
Ben Pincus, AV Technician
Catherine Hill, Communications & Office Coordinator

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FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD IS A WELCOMING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION THAT SEEKS WAYS TO DEEPEN SPIRITUALLY, BUILD COMMUNITY, AND MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

WWW.FIRSTPARISH.ORG