

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

Silence

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 Moglebust
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
Help the suffering
Honor all beings

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.

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