

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

Prelude: Overture to “Messiah”

First Parish Festival Orchestra & Simon Andrews, organist

Welcome and Announcements: Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Opening Hymn #92: *Mysterious Presence, Source of All*

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. Paul Langston-Daley

Silence

Responsive Hymn #95: *There is More Love Somewhere*

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

Offertory: “Pastoral Symphony” from “Messiah”

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

Reading: An excerpt from *All About Love* by bell hooks

Anthem: “Glory to God in the Highest” - G. F. Handel

Sermon: “Love on Tap” by Rev. Jennifer Johnson

Anthem: “There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Fields”

. . . “Glory to God in the Highest”
Pamela Schweppe, soprano soloist

Closing Words

Closing Hymn #226: *People Look East*

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: “Andante allegro” from Concerto for Organ in B-flat, Op. 4 No. 6 by G. F. Handel

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

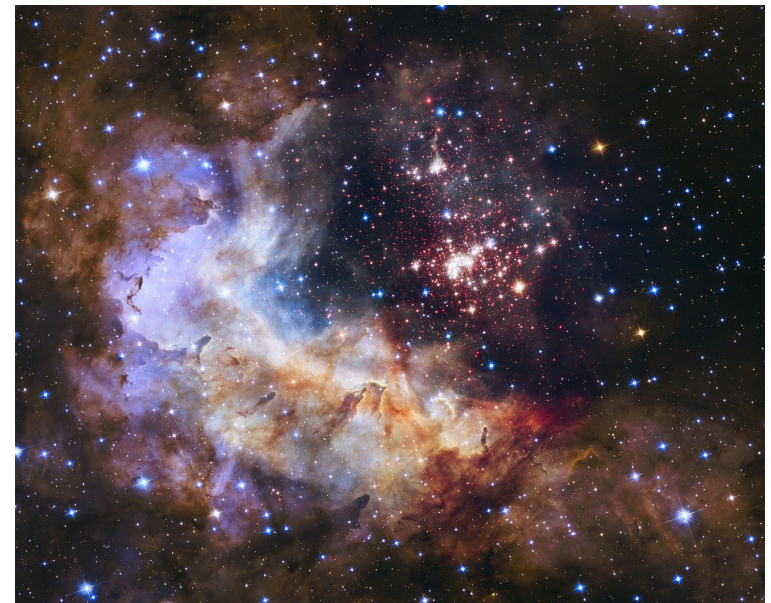
Ben Pincus, AV Technician

Catherine Hill, Communications & Office Coordinator

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

Featuring Music from G. F. Handel's "Messiah"



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