

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

**Reflection:** *“For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself.”* - Charles Dickens

**Prelude:** “O Christmas Tree” by Paul Ayres

**Welcome and Announcements:** Rev. Amy Freedman

**Opening Hymn #235:** *Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly*

**Call to Worship:** Dawn Van Patten

**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)

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

**Offertory:** “Divinum Mysterium”, 12th cent. plainchant,  
*arr.* Larry Shackley

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

**Angel Annunciation**

**Centering in Meditation and Prayer:** Rev. Amy Freedman

**Silence**

**Anthem:** “Glow” - Eric Whitacre, First Parish Choir

**Introducing Our Christmas Pageant:**

Rev. Amy Freedman & Dawn Van Patten

**Enter Caesar Augustus, Emperor of Rome**

**Journey to Bethlehem: Joseph and Mary on a Donkey**

**Anthem:** “*Let your little light shine,*” - Traditional,  
arr. Steve Finner – Pop-Up Choir

**Arriving at the Stable with Animals**

**Hymn #239:** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (verses 1 & 2)

**Angels Visit the Shepherds Tending their Sheep**

**Hymn #231:** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (verses 1 & 2)

**Three Wise Men Visit King Herod and Follow a Star**

**Hymn #259:** *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (verse 1 and chorus)

**Reflection on the Nativity Story:** Rev. Amy Freedman

**Closing Hymn #388:** *Dona Nobis Pacem*

**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:** “O Christmas Tree” arr. Scot Ranney (adapted)

*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 01742

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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