## 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

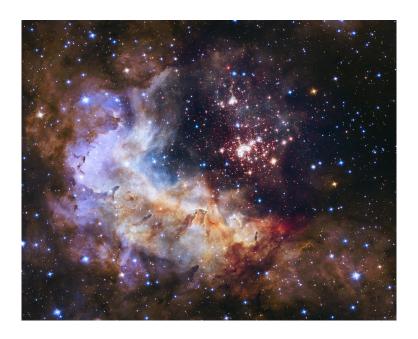
A Unitarian Universalist congregation

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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