

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

Organ Prelude: *Chorale Preludes* by Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

*O Gott, du frommer Gott
Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele*

Eric Huenneke, organ

Welcome and Announcements: Rev. Jennifer Beth Johnson

Opening Hymn #350: *The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time*

Call to Worship: Shiloh Hoffman

Unison Chalice Lighting:

Unison Response:

O flame of our faith, open our hearts
And fill our bodies and souls
with persistent strength;
Enliven our spirits and
engage us deeply in this life of ours,
This sacred essential moment now.

— Paul Sawyer

Time for All Ages

Parish Concerns, Calling of Names

Pastoral Prayer

Silence

Responsive Hymn #352: *Find a Stillness*

1. Find a stillness, hold a stillness, let the stillness carry me.
Find the silence, hold the silence, let the silence carry me.
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power, I will find
true harmony.

2. Seek the essence, hold the essence, let the essence carry me.
Let me flower, help me flower, watch me flower, carry me.
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power, I will find
true harmony

Invitation to Offering

Offertory: *Chorale Prelude* by Johannes Brahms

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

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

Reading

Musical Interlude: *Sonata in f minor, Op. 120,*

Andante un poco adagio by Johannes Brahms

Eric Huenneke, piano; Nancy Ackerman, clarinet

Sermon: “Let Center Lead” by Shiloh Hoffman

Musical Interlude: *Sonata in f minor, Op. 120,*

Allegretto grazioso by Johannes Brahms

Closing Words

Closing Hymn #1007: “There’s a River Flowing in My Soul”

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: *Capriccio in g minor, Op. 116, Nr. 3*
by Johannes Brahms

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

About Guest Preacher Shiloh Hoffman

Shiloh (they/them) was welcomed into preliminary fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist Association in September 2024. They received their MDiv from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2024, and served as a ministerial intern at United First Parish Church in Quincy. Currently, Shiloh serves as a hospice chaplain with Hospice Services of MA. Shiloh is also a volunteer crisis counselor with the Trevor Project, a suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ+ young people. Shiloh enjoys hanging out with their wife and two cats in their spare time, baking, and playing early 2000s video games.

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024



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