

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

Prelude: Improvisation on *Auld Lang Syne*
Simon Andrews, organist

Welcome and Announcements: Rev. Jennifer Beth Johnson

Opening Hymn #126: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Call to Worship

Chalice Lighting

Unison Response

For the stories that long to be told and retold,
for the stories that long to be imagined and reimagined,
for the stories that long to be envisioned and celebrated,
we kindle this chalice.

May its flame bring the light of different truths,
different paths and different voices,
all needed to cultivate a transformative story
of justice, love and beauty.

—Sandra Fees

Anthem: “A New Year Carol” by Benjamin Britten
New Year’s Pop-Up Choir

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: Rev. Elizabeth Ide

Pastoral Prayer

Responsive Hymn #123: “Spirit of Life”

Invitation to Offering

Offertory: “O my luvie is like a red, red rose”
Traditional Scottish melody, poem by Robert Burns

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

Sermon Part 1: “Other Kinds of Love Stories”
by Rev. Jennifer Beth Johnson

Anthem: “There Is a Love”
words: Rebecca Parker, music: Elizabeth Norton

Sermon Part 2

Congregational Response: “There Is a Love”

Closing Words

Closing Hymn #18: “What Wondrous Love Is This”

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: Prelude in C major by J.S. Bach
Simon Andrews, organist

*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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