

# THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

*An Open and Welcoming Church*



✦ PEACE ✦

**Sunday, December 5, 2021 ✦ 10 a.m.**

# The First Parish in Lincoln

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**PRELUDE** Variations on O Come, O Come Emmanuel and Lo How a  
Rose - James Woodman Ms. Miranda Loud, Guest Organist  
**RINGING OF THE BELL** Ms. Anneka Doughty  
**WELCOME** Mr. Andrew Clark  
**OPENING WORDS** The Reverend Jenny Rankin

Minister: In the houses of the holy, the world pauses.

In the hearts of the holy, Love abides

*People: In the havens of the holy, Hope comfort.*

*In the hearths of the holy, Spirit refreshes.*

Minister: Come then, one and all, gather in.

Come then, one and all, gather here.

*People: Bring here all of your heart, Bring here all of your body,*

*Bring here all of your soul*

Minister: Come then, bring the broken, The vulnerable,

*People: The ragged, The outcast, The Other,*

Minister: Come then, gather in, come.

*All: Come then, one and all, gather in. Come then, gather in*

**OPENING HYMN** “People Look East” #226 Grey

**INVOCATION** Ms. Sarah Klockowski

**OUR COVENANT** Ms. Anneka Doughty

In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus

We unite for the worship of God and the service of all.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** Isaiah 11:1-2, 6-9 Ms. Anneka Doughty

**RESPONSIVE READING** An Advent Blessing Ms. Sarah Klockowski

Minister: season of advent. active preparation.

radical play and sacred pretendings –

*People: we practice the future, making the impossible possible with  
the fearlessness of children,*

*unrestrained by the stale logics of what is.*

Minister: a divine invitation extends:  
do not be afraid. try on dreams of tomorrow.

People: *experiment with and for each other moving together  
imaginatively, in conflict. in rest. in material distribution*

Minister: we play until practice makes possible; counter-performance  
constructs a counter-reality. community preparing the way.

People: *this is the time to try on the world to come;  
to bring it close one small, ordinary, practice at a time.*

Minister: practice, practice, practice  
neither a new way nor a new world  
will come to us all at once.

People: *not quickly. not without failures. not without patience and  
determination but through holy repetition –*

Minister: radical rituals of hope and curiosity,  
of learning and unlearning, mending and repairing,

People: *inventing alternative habits of power,  
that construct life anew.*

All: *divinity takes on flesh. salvation draws near.*

*~ Rev. M Barclay, enfleshed<sup>1</sup>*

**INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER**

Mr. Andrew Clark

**PRAYER HYMN**

“Mary Woman of the Promise”  
#123 (UCC New Century Hymnal)

**SILENCE**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Ms. Sarah Klockowski & The Reverend Jenny Rankin

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Mr. Andrew Clark

**UNISON PRAYER**

Mr. Andrew Clark

Wherever God shows up today, may I not be too hurried to notice,  
nor too aloof to care.

When the Sacred surprises me like an unexpected guest,  
may I not hesitate to greet Them with open arms.

Let not my bias be a barrier, to embracing The Holy’s mysterious ways.

May I be hospitable to God enfleshed

in even the dullest circumstances,

and the hardest situations, and the strangest of places.

I am open  
to encountering Love, to meeting with Justice, to being held by Awe.  
May it be so.

~ Anonymous author, enfleshed<sup>1</sup>

**OFFERTORY**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE** “Canticle of the Turning” Ms. Sarah Klockowski

**READING** Luke 1:26 The Reverend Jenny Rankin

**SERMON** “Everyday Annunciations” The Reverend Jenny Rankin

**CLOSING HYMN** ”Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” #103 red

**OUR CALL TO MINISTRY** Mr. Andrew Clark

We go forth from the worship of God  
To be faithful to the vision of Jesus  
To affirm each person’s dignity  
And to cherish the living earth.

**BENEDICTION** The Reverend Jenny Rankin

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**POSTLUDE** Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661 - J.S. Bach  
Ms. Miranda Loud, Guest Organist

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<sup>1</sup>\*enfleshed creates liturgical and spiritual resources for collective liberation. You can find their work at [enfleshed.com](http://enfleshed.com).



The flowers this morning are given by Katharine Preston in memory of her mother, Jean Wood Preston, and also her aunt, Katharine Emily Wood, both born on this special day.



*We are an open and welcoming community church formed in 1942 by the union of the Congregational (1746) and Unitarian (1842) churches in Lincoln.*

## Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
That the God of my heart is great  
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things  
That you bring to the ones who wait  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight  
And my weakness you did not spurn  
So from east to west shall my name be blest  
Could the world be about to turn?

Chorus:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring  
Let the fires of your justice burn  
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near  
And the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
Work great things in me  
And your mercy will last from the Depths  
Of the past to the end of the age to be  
Your very name puts the proud to shame  
And to those who would for you yearn  
You will show your might  
Put the strong to flight  
For the world is about to turn

My heart shall sing of the day you bring  
Let the fires of your justice burn  
Wipe away all tears  
For the dawn draws near  
And the world is about to turn!

From the halls of power to the fortress tower  
Not a stone will be left on stone  
Let the king beware for your  
Justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne  
The hungry poor shall weep no more  
For the food they can never ears  
There are tables spread, ev'ry  
Mouth be fed  
For the world is about to turn

My heart shall sing of the day you bring  
Let the fires of your justice burn  
Wipe away all tears  
For the dawn draws near  
And the world is about to turn!

Though the nations rage from age to age  
We remember  
Who holds us fast  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp  
This saving word that our forebears  
Heard is the promise which holds us bound  
'Til the spear and rod can be  
Crushed by God  
Who is turning the world around

My heart shall sing of the day you bring  
Let the fires of your justice burn  
Wipe away all tears  
For the dawn draws near  
And the world is about to turn!

*The First Parish in Lincoln*  
[www.fplincn.org](http://www.fplincn.org)

*Rev. Jenny Rankin, Interim Minister, [jenny@fplincn.org](mailto:jenny@fplincn.org)*

*Ms. Sarah Klockowski, Student Minister, [sarah@fplincn.org](mailto:sarah@fplincn.org)*

*Ms. Margit Griffith, Director of Religious Education, [margit@fplincn.org](mailto:margit@fplincn.org)*

*Mr. Ian Watson, Music Director, [ian@fplincn.org](mailto:ian@fplincn.org)*

*Ms. Silvia Dieckow, Administrator, [silvia@fplincn.org](mailto:silvia@fplincn.org)*