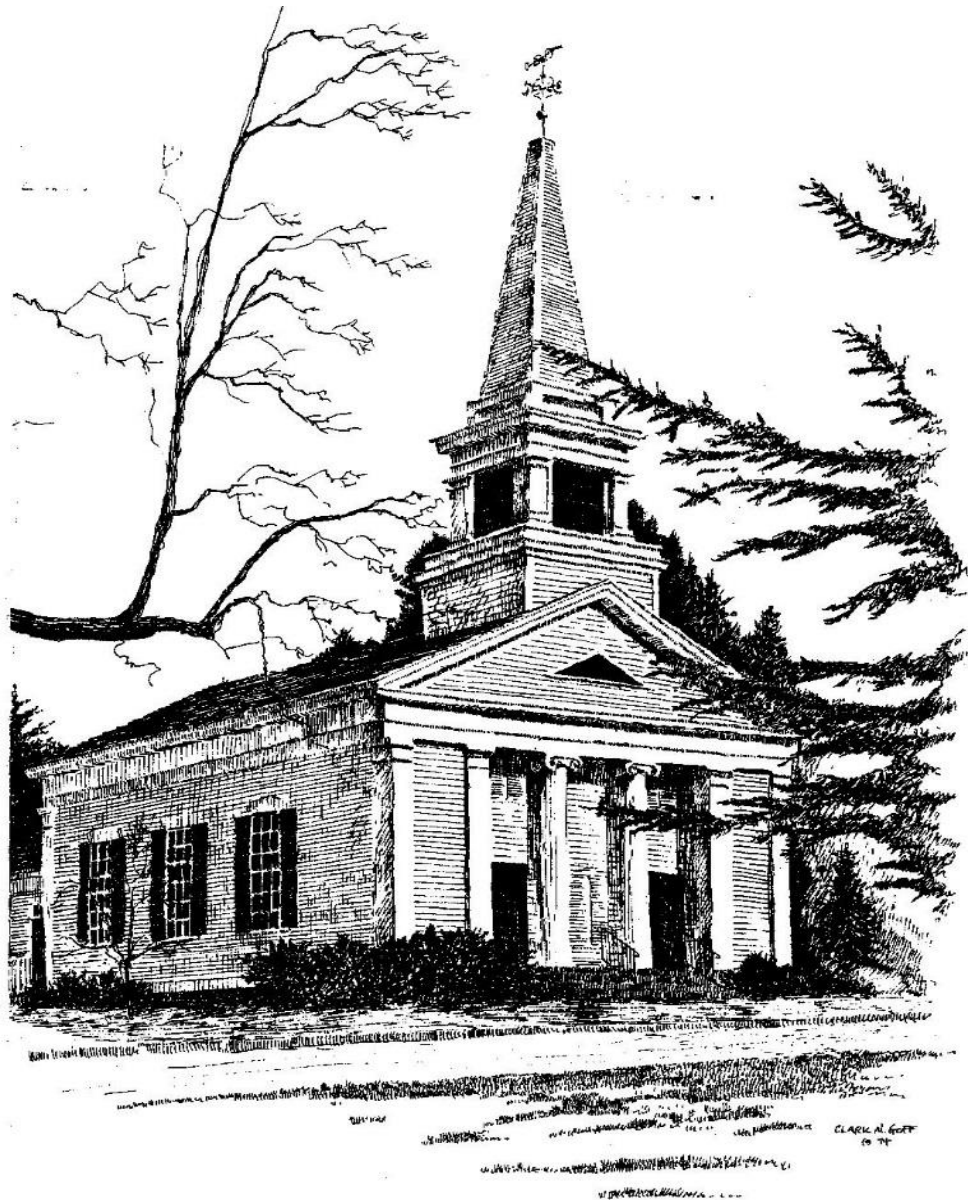


# THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

*An Open and Welcoming Church*



**Sunday, February 27, 2022 ❖ 10 a.m.**

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## **PRELUDE**

Various English Country Dance Tunes

(from the Playford Book “The English Dancing Master” 1651, composers unknown)

## **WELCOME**

Tom Risser

## **OPENING WORDS**

Jenny Rankin

Minister: Come into this sacred space.

Be not tentative. Bring your whole self!

*People: Bring the joy that makes your heart sing.*

*Bring your kindness and your compassion.*

Minister: Bring also your sorrow, your pain.

Bring your brokenness and your disappointments.

*People: Spirit of love and mystery; help us to recognize the spark of the divine that resides within each of us.*

*All: May we know the joy of wholeness.*

*May we know the joy of being together.*

~Rev. Andy Pakula

## **OPENING HYMN**

“Here We Have Gathered” (Gray # 360)

## **INVOCATION**

Jenny Rankin

## **COVENANT**

Heather Ring

In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus  
We unite for the worship of God and the service of all

## **RESPONSIVE READING**

John O'Donohue

Jenny Rankin

“For a New Beginning”

Minister: In out-of-the-way places of the heart, Where your thoughts  
never think to wander, This beginning has been quietly  
forming, Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

*People: For a long time it has watched your desire, Feeling the  
emptiness growing inside you, Noticing how you willed  
yourself on, Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.*

Minister: It watched you play with the seduction of safety, And the  
gray promises that sameness whispered, Heard the waves of  
turmoil rise and relent, Wondered would you always live like  
this.

*People: Then the delight, when your courage kindled, And out you  
stepped onto new ground, Your eyes young again with energy  
and dream, A path of plenitude opening before you.*

Minister: Though your destination is not yet clear, You can trust the  
promise of this opening; Unfurl yourself into the grace of  
beginning, That is at one with your life's desire.

*All: Awaken your spirit to adventure; Hold nothing back, learn to  
find ease in risk; Soon you will be at home in a new rhythm;  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.*

## REFLECTION

Jenny Rankin

## INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Tom Risser

## PRAYER HYMN

“When Our Heart is in a Holy Place”

When our heart is in a holy place,  
When our heart is in a holy place,  
We are bless'd with love and amazing grace,  
When our heart is in a holy place.  
When we trust the wisdom in each of us,  
Ev'ry color ev'ry creed and kind,  
And we see our faces in each other's eyes,  
Then our heart is in a holy place.  
When we tell our story from deep inside,  
And we listen with a loving mind,  
And we hear our voices in each other's words,  
Then our heart is in a holy place.  
When we share the silence of sacred space,  
And the God of our Heart stirs within,  
And we feel the power of each other's faith,  
Then our heart is in a holy place.

**SILENCE**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Ralph Smith

**UNISON PRAYER**

Source Of All Blessings

Ralph Smith

you bless us with change –  
in the seasons of the year, from  
snow to greening, flowering,  
fruiting, and harvest, in the  
seasons of life, from childhood to  
youth, full ripeness, and saging.  
All living things keep changing.  
May I welcome change as a sacred  
opportunity to grow and savor  
in each unrepeatable moment's  
fleetingness what Is beyond  
change.

~Brother David Steindl-Rast

**OFFERTORY**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Tom Risser

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

“We Are Building a New Way”  
words and music by Martha Sandefer

**SECOND READING**

From “The Church We Yearn For”

Heather Ring

**HOMILY**

“The Church We Yearn For”

Katy Walker

**CLOSING HYMN**

“We’ll Build a Land” (Gray #121)

**OUR CALL TO MINISTRY**

Tom Risser

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**

Janet Boynton

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tom Risser

**POSTLUDE**

Water Music: Allegro Maestoso  
G. F. Handel

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



Technology Team: Ben Wells  
Deacon of month: Tom Risser  
Lay leader: Ralph Smith



This Sunday, children in grades K-8 will begin in the Parish House for our Religious Education program. We are offering “classes” and activities inspired by those enjoyed at Hogwarts during our “Sunday School of Magic and Mystery”! Babies and preschoolers are welcome in our nursery; also located at the Parish House (“up the hill” at 14 Bedford Road).



*The First Parish in Lincoln*  
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