

**THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN**  
*An Open and Welcoming Church*



**Sunday, September 18, 2022 ❖ 10 a.m.**

**RALLY SUNDAY**

# The First Parish in Lincoln

September Worship Theme: COMING TOGETHER

*\*All are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

## PRELUDE

“Will the Circle Be Unbroken”

Dixieland Jazz Quartet, led by Dan Gabel

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME

Sarah Klockowski

**\*OPENING WORDS** From “Circles of Our Lives” By Wendell Berry

Nate: Within the circles of our lives

*People: we dance the circles of the years,*

Kit: the circles of the seasons, within the circles of the years,

*People: the cycles of the moon within the circles of the seasons,*

Sarah: the circles of our reasons within the cycles of the moon.

*People: Again, again we come and go, changed, changing.*

Nate: Hands join, unjoin in love and fear, grief and joy.

*People: The circles turn, each giving into each, into all.*

**\*OPENING HYMN** “We Gather Together “ (Gray Hymnal #349)

## INVOCATION

The Reverend Nate Klug

## COVENANT

Evie Packineau

In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus

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

## TIME FOR ALL AGES

Blessing of the Backpacks

Rev.s Kit & Nate

## FIRST READING

Selections from Hebrews 10: 19-25 (NRSV)

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary... by the new and living way that [Jesus] opened for us... let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for [the One] who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER**

Andy Clark

**PRAYER HYMN**      “Love Will Guide Us” (Gray Hymnal # 131)

**SILENCE**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Sarah Klockowski & Rev. Nate Klug

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Andy Clark

**UNISON PRAYER**

“The Lord’s Prayer,”  
Adapted from Matthew 6:9-13 (The Message)

Our Parent in heaven,  
Reveal who you are.  
Set the world right;  
Do what’s best—  
    as above, so below.

Keep us alive with three square meals.  
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.  
Keep us safe from ourselves and from evil.  
You’re in charge!  
You can do anything you want!  
You’re ablaze in beauty!  
    Yes. Yes. Yes.

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

From all that dwell below the skies  
Let the Creator’s praise arise  
Let the Redeemer’s names be sung  
Through every land by every tongue. Amen.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

“Give Us a Song”  
by Jonathan Edwards, arr. Peter Amidon

**SECOND READING**

From "Circles" by Ralph Waldo Emerson

The eye is the first circle; the horizon which it forms is the second; and throughout nature this primary figure is repeated without end. It is the highest emblem in the cipher of the world. St. Augustine described the nature of God as a circle whose centre was everywhere, and its circumference nowhere. We are all our lifetime reading the copious sense of this first of forms. One moral we have already deduced, in considering the circular or compensatory character of every human action. Another analogy we shall now trace; that every action admits of being outdone. Our life is an apprenticeship to the truth, that around every circle another can be drawn; that there is no end in nature, but every end is a beginning; that there is always another dawn risen on mid-noon, and under every deep a lower deep opens. ...

Nothing is secure but life, transition, the energizing spirit. No love can be bound by oath or covenant to secure it against a higher love. No truth so sublime but it may be trivial to-morrow in the light of new thoughts. People wish to be settled; only as far as they are unsettled is there any hope for them. Life is a series of surprises. ...

The one thing which we seek with insatiable desire is to forget ourselves, to be surprised out of our propriety, to lose our sempiternal memory, and to do something without knowing how or why; in short, to draw a new circle. Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

**SERMON**

Drawing New Circles

The Reverend Kit Novotny

**\*SUNG RESPONSE**

"Will the Circle Be Unbroken"

Will the circle be unbroken by and by, yes, by and by?  
In a better home awaiting in the sky, in the sky?

**\*OUR CALL TO MINISTRY**

Andy 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**

Rev.s Nate &amp; Kit

**\*CLOSING HYMN & PARADE**      “When the Saints go Marching In”  
words by Louis Armstrong

*Please sing along with the band and follow them in a parade ending in a celebratory reception.*

Verse

We are trav'ling in the footsteps  
Of those who've gone before  
(but if we stand reunited)  
(then a new world is in store)

Refrain

O when the saints go marching in  
When the saints go marching in  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in  
And when the sun (begins) to shine  
And when the sun (begins) to shine  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in  
On that hallelujah day  
On that hallelujah day  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in  
O when the trumpet sounds the call  
O when the trumpet sounds the call  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in

Verse

Some say this world of trouble  
Is the only one we need  
But I'm waiting for that morning  
When the new world is revealed  
When the revelation comes  
When the revelation comes  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in  
When the air is pure and clean  
When the air is pure and clean  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in  
When we all have food to eat  
When we all have food to eat  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in  
O When the Saints  
O when the saints go marching in  
When the saints go marching in  
O Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in

**Announcements** will be held outside today,  
following the Recessional Rally Day Parade.

Special thanks to our guest musicians today, the Dixieland Jazz Quartet!  
Dan Gabel, trombone   John Clark, clarinet   Dave MacMillan, banjo   Ben Vasko, tuba



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



First Parish is very excited to have completed the set up for Live streaming of worship services. We will stream and record in-person services going forward. We want to take this moment to advise our congregation that these recordings will be archived on YouTube.

Please speak to an usher should you have any concerns in this regard.



**If you are visiting**, we invite you to sign up for our weekly news brief and monthly newsletter to learn more about classes and events in our community. Sign up on our website – [www.fplincn.org](http://www.fplincn.org). You can also fill out a Virtual Connect Card using the QR Code to the right. We are glad you are here.



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

*Revs. Kit Novotny & Nate Klug, Co-Ministers; ministers@fplincn.org*

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