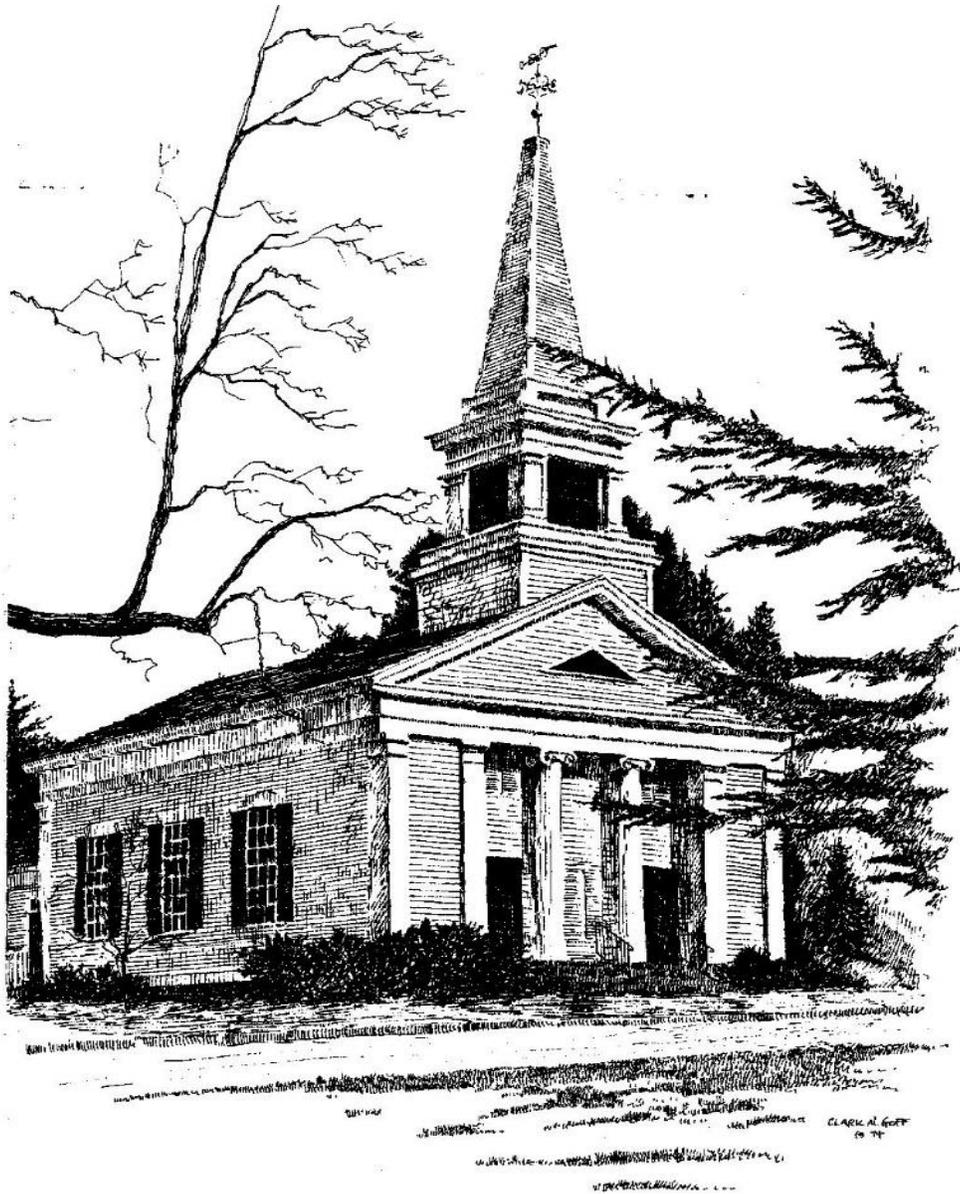


THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

An Open and Welcoming Church



Sunday, September 25, 2022 ❖ 10 a.m.

The First Parish in Lincoln

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

PRELUDE Andante tranquillo from Sonata III Felix Mendelssohn

RINGING OF THE BELL

INTROIT Gathered Here (Gray #389)

Gathered here in the mystery of the hour.

Gathered here in one strong body.

Gathered here in the struggle and the power.

Spirit, draw near.

WELCOME

Rev. Nate Klug

***OPENING WORDS**

from en fleshed, adapted

Rev. Nate Klug

Minister: Come, let us ground ourselves in the sacred wonder of this ordinary day,

People: Come, all you embodied beings, you creatures inherently worthy of tender care!

Minister: What you hold—your sorrow, stories, disappointments, and dreams—

People: All of it belongs in the care of the Beloved.

Minister: What lives in your body, what is beyond words—
what aches, longs, and dances—

People: All of it belongs in the loving embrace of the Holy.

All: Let us worship One who witnesses our complexity and Loves us unwaveringly!

***OPENING HYMN** “God of the Earth, the Sky, the Sea” (Gray #25)

INVOCATION

Rev. Kit Novotny

COVENANT

Andy Clark, Deacon

In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus

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

FIRST READING

Philippians 2:1-4 NRSV

Andy Clark

If, then, there is any comfort [in Christ], any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Andy Clark

PRAYER HYMN “Gather the Spirit” (Gray 347)**SILENCE****COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Rev.s Kit Novotny & Nate Klug

PASTORAL PRAYER

Edwin Elineema

UNISON PRAYER from enfleshed

Search my heart, O Love,
and lead me in the ways of solidarity.
Help me to lay down my defenses
and grow beyond the edges of my
knowing
that I may move more deeply into
practices
of care,
of right-relationship,
of liberation and transformation.

planted in the knowledge of my
power,
mindful of the stories,
and legacies,
and systems that shape me,
I pray my becoming unfolds
in the direction of freedom:
Mine. Others. Ours. This planet’s.
May this day be my teacher
and my learning sincere.

Grounded in the truth of my inherent
worth,

OFFERTORY Plain Chant on the Agnus Dei {Mass for the Parishes} –
Francois Couperin

***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 “Glory to Thee My God This Night”, by Thomas Tallis

SECOND READING

Sarah Klockowski

SERMON

Redefining Difference

Sarah Klockowski

***CLOSING HYMN**

“We Would Be One” (Gray #318)

***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**

Sarah Klockowski

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Rondeau from Abdelazer Henry Purcell

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.



The flowers this week come from the FPL Community Garden. Thanks to the entire garden crew who work hard all summer donating food and working the earth for all our benefit.



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. You can also fill out a Virtual Connect Card using the QR Code to the right. We are glad you are here.





This Week at First Parish

The following programs are open to everyone. Drop in once or attend regularly. Come as you are and bring a friend if you'd like!

**Details and Zoom links for our programs are available on our website and the News brief.*

South Sudanese Enrichment for Families* Monday, September 26th 5-6pm

Hosted by the Racial Justice Advocates and South Sudanese Enrichment for Families
On Zoom

SSEF is proud to be a recipient of the generous Jean Wood Preston Grant with a goal of enlisting FPL Racial Justice Advocates interested in serving as mentor-volunteers for these hardworking parents. Join FPL advocates and SSEF for an online mtg to hear about the organization and plans for this partnership!

Audre Lorde: Warrior Poet* Monday, September 26th, 7:00-8:30pm

The Stearns Room and Zoom Led by Sarah Klockowski

This fall join our community reading group as we engage the work of Audre Lorde – a Black woman warrior poet – and ask ourselves what our work is today, and how we might transform our silences into language and action.

We will have six sessions (every other Monday from 9/26-12/5), offered both in person (Stearns Room) and online. All are welcome! Drop in for one session or attend all six.

We will be reading a selection of essays from the collection *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Five copies will be available in the church library on Sunday. Our first session will focus on Lorde's poem "A Litany for Survival" and the essay "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action."

Altar Live Tutorial Tuesday, September 27th at 2:30pm

The Stearns Room Led by Sarah Klockowski

Do you plan to worship online this Sunday? Want to know more about our new Livestream platform? Bring your laptop to the Stearns Room and join Sarah K for a step-by-step guide on how to access online worship and make the most of our new Altar Live platform.

Weekly Meditation Tuesday, September 27th at 4 pm

Led by Joan Kimball and Ben Wells

If you would like up-to-date information, contact Joan Kimball at selenejck@gmail.com to receive the weekly meditation emails.

Sacred Texts* Thursday, September 29th from 12-1pm

Join zoom meeting Led by Sarah Klockowski

Quiet Walks Friday, September 30th at 1:30pm

Led by Andy Falender and Jackie Lenth

Upcoming Events

Look ahead to some more events later this month

Rally Rounds (Fun, sociable, and important)

Sign up for a session online

In her inspired sermon on Rally Sunday, Rev. Kit referenced the etymology of the word “Rally”. In a nutshell, RALLY means to come together for a common act or effort.

As we come together and celebrate this exciting new chapter in the life of First Parish, the Launch Team will facilitate a series of small, informal group conversations designed to help us rally around our new co-ministers and our shared values.

The Rally (a) Rounds will be held in October and will take place outdoors and on ZOOM. We hope everyone will participate in this opportunity to connect with each other, widen our circles and rally (a)round FPL!

With gratitude from the Launch Team,

Gina Halsted & Jane O’Rourke, Co-Chairs; Katy Hogue, Larry Buell, Gus Browne, and Sarah Andrysiak

Coffee & Compassion* Thursday, September 29, 9:00-10:00am

The Garrison Room and Zoom Led by Rev. Kit Novotny

We will share and reflect together on whatever needs compassion in our lives and world, sometimes being inspired by writings on compassion from spiritual traditions, as well as tools for connection and emotional resilience like Mindful Self-Compassion and Compassionate Communication (aka Nonviolent Communication or “NVC”).



The First Parish in Lincoln

www.fplincn.org

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