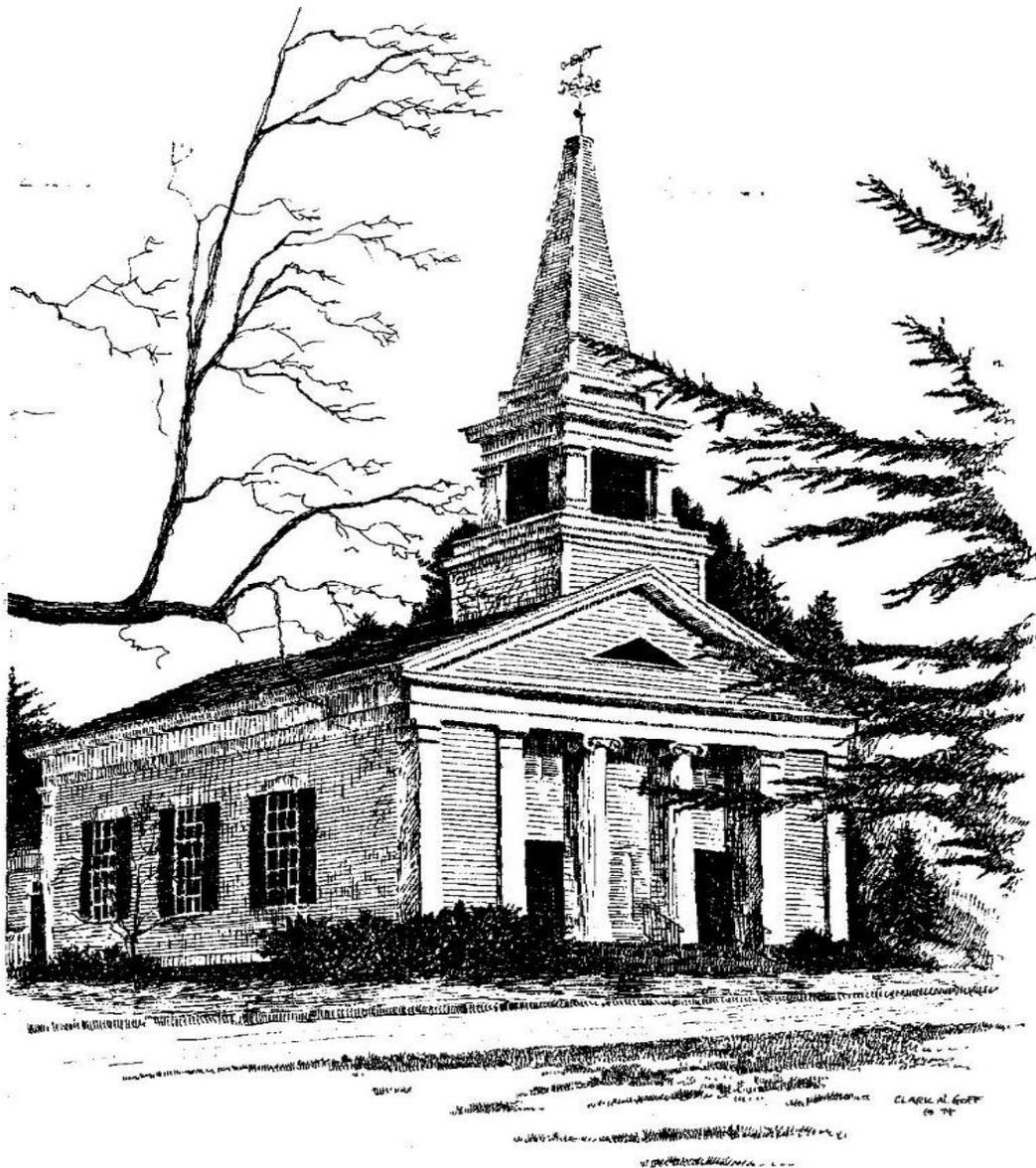


# THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

*An Open and Welcoming Church*



**Sunday, January 8, 2023 ❖ 10 a.m.**

**"Poems for Epiphany"**



they portend war, death, famine, plague,  
good and bad harvests, the birth of kings;  
they regulate the prices of salt and fish;  
they are the seeds of all the creatures on earth;  
they are the flock of the moon,  
scattered across the sky like sheep in a meadow,  
and she leads them to pasture;  
they are spheres of crystal  
and their movement creates a music in the sky;  
they are fixed and we are moving;  
we are fixed and they are moving.

**INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER**

Rob Graves

**PRAYER HYMN**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Gray #259

**SILENCE**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Revs. Nate Klug and Kit Novotny

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**UNISON PRAYER**

(Adapted from the Presbyterian Church USA)

Shepherd, you sent a star  
to enlighten the wise  
and a child to topple the tyrant.  
Make us wise enough to seek you  
among the least of your children,  
wise enough to trade our treasure  
for the gift of overwhelming joy.

**OFFERTORY**

Vom Himmel Hoch

J.S. Bach

**\*DOXOLOGY**

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

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

All: Dear Lord, we give thanks for both these gifts and the givers, and we ask that we may use these gifts wisely and well, both to nurture the life of this congregation and to further the goals of justice and peace throughout the world. Amen.

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright

Text: by Charles Coffin

Tune: Puer nobis nascitur, adapted by Michael Praetorius

**THIRD READING**

“A Poem for the Epiphany,” Pablo Medina

Adam Bailey

It snows because the door to heaven is open,  
because God is tired of working  
and the day needs to be left alone.  
It snows because there is a widow hiding  
under her mother's bed,  
because the birds are resting their throats  
and three wise men are offering gifts.  
Because the clouds are singing  
and trees have a right to exist,  
because the horses of the past are returning.  
They are gray and trot gently into the barn  
never touching the ground.

It snows because the wind wants  
to be water, because water  
wants to be powder and powder wants  
to seduce the eye. Because once in his life  
the philosopher has to admit  
to the poverty of thought.  
Because the rich man cannot buy snow  
and the poor man has to wear it on his eyebrows.  
Because it makes the old dog think  
his life has just begun. He runs  
back and forth across the parking lot.  
He rolls in the snow. He laps it up.

It snows because light and dark  
are making love in a field where old age  
has no meaning, where colors blur,  
silence covers sound, sleep covers sorrow,  
everything is death, everything is joy.

**FOURTH READING**

“The Map You Make Yourself,” Jan Richardson

Sarah Sheehan

You have looked  
at so many doors  
with longing,  
wondering if your life  
lay on the other side.

For today,  
choose the door  
that opens  
to the inside.

Travel the most ancient way  
of all:  
the path that leads you  
to the center  
of your life.

No map  
but the one  
you make yourself.

No provision  
but what you already carry  
and the grace that comes  
to those who walk  
the pilgrim's way.

Speak this blessing  
as you set out  
and watch how  
your rhythm slows,  
the cadence of the road  
drawing you into the pace  
that is your own.

Eat when hungry.  
Rest when tired.  
Listen to your dreaming.  
Welcome detours  
as doors deeper in.

Pray for protection.  
Ask for guidance.  
Offer gladness  
for the gifts that come,  
and then  
let them go.

Do not expect  
to return  
by the same road.  
Home is always  
by another way,  
and you will know it  
not by the light  
that waits for you

but by the star  
that blazes inside you,  
telling you  
where you are  
is holy  
and you are welcome  
here.

**REFLECTION**

“Seeking New Light”

Sarah Klockowski

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Gray #239

**\*OUR CALL TO MINISTRY**

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**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

He Came Down

Cameroon melody, arr. John Bell

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**POSTLUDE**

Vom Himmel Hoch

Johannes Pachelbel

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



We thank today's ushers for their service: Elizabeth Brown, David Elliott, and Tom and Penny DeNormandie.



We will be streaming this service and it 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; [kit@fplincn.org](mailto:kit@fplincn.org); [nate@fplincn.org](mailto:nate@fplincn.org)*

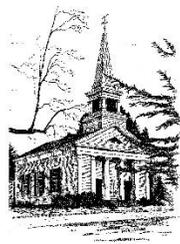
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*Miranda Loud, Music Director and Organist; [mirandaloud574@gmail.com](mailto:mirandaloud574@gmail.com)*

*Paris Parks, Livestream Coordinator*

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



## **This Week at First Parish & Upcoming Events**

*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.*

**The Forum: Language Matters**      **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am,**  
Stearns Room      Presented by the Racial Justice Advocates

**20s-30s Group**      **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am**  
Tack Room in Lincoln

**Weekly Meditation**      **Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:selenejck@gmail.com) to receive the weekly meditation emails.

**\*Resolving to Do Better: Banks and Black Owned Businesses**

Zoom      **Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7 pm**

First Parish in Lincoln Racial Justice Advocates is sponsoring the UU Urban Ministry virtual Community Conversation

**\*Sacred Texts: The Loving God of the Hebrew Scriptures**

Zoom      **Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 12pm**

Led by Sarah Klockowski

**Watch Party: Unveiling the Embrace**

Please join FPL's Racial Justice Advocates for a "watch party" as we gather together to see the livestreaming of the Unveiling of the Embrace memorial to Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King on Boston Common on Friday, January 13 at 12:30.

**Quiet Walks**      **Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**  
Led by Andy Falender and Jackie Lenth

**Poetry for Seekers**      **Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 5 pm**

Zoom

Join Nate on Zoom as we read and talk about a few poems related to our month's worship theme. No poetry background required!

**Big Questions Book Club**

All are invited to join Rev. Kit and members of the Care Committee on Zoom this winter to discuss some big questions around topics like loss, grief, renewal, human fragility and resilience, and coping with life's twists and turns.

**Monday January 23, 3:30-5pm: Lost & Found by Kathryn Schultz**

**Monday Feb 27, 3:30-5pm: How to Begin When Your World is Ending by Molly Baskette**