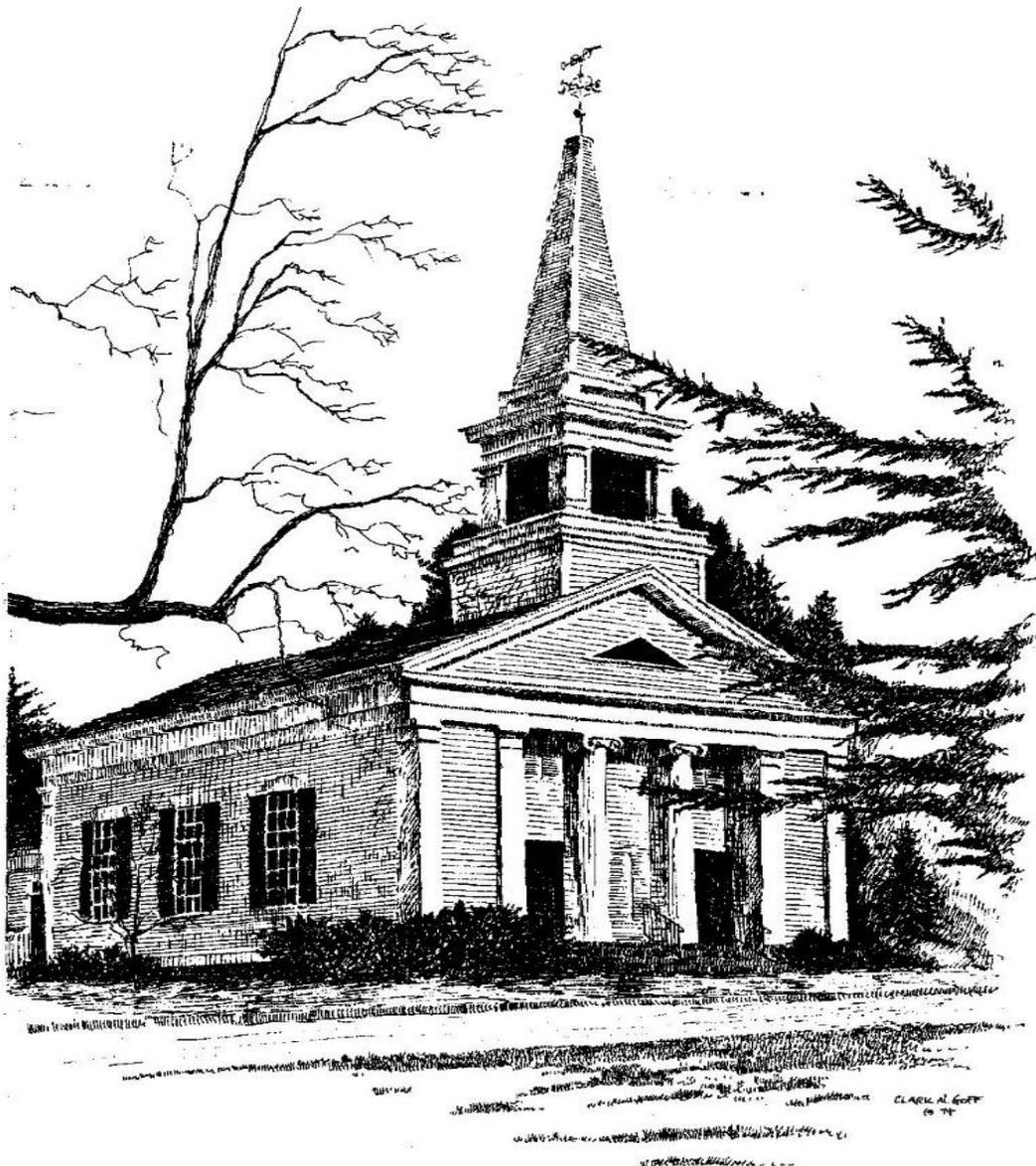


# THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

*An Open and Welcoming Church*



**Sunday, January 22, 2023 ❖ 10 a.m.**

**January's Worship Theme: The Growing Edge**

# The First Parish in Lincoln

Sunday, January 22 ❖ 10 a.m.

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

**PRELUDE** Air from the Water Music G.F. Handel

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME** Rev. Nate Klug

**\*OPENING WORDS** (based on Psalm 23)

One: O Love, my shepherd! With you by my side, I don't need a thing.

Many: *Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid.*

One: You revive my drooping head.

Many: *My cup brims with blessing.*

One: Your beauty and love chase after me, every day of my life.

Many: *I'm back home... in the house of God.*

**\*OPENING HYMN** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Gray, #126

**INVOCATION** Sarah Klockowski

**COVENANT** Deanna Elineema

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 OUTREACH** Julia Blatt, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

**SUNG RESPONSE** "We Are Marching in the Light of God"  
We are marching in the light of God (*Choir once, All repeat*)

**FIRST READING** Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised.

Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

**INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER**

Deanna Elineema

**PRAYER HYMN**

Spirit of Life

Gray, #123

**SILENCE**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Rev. Nate Klug and Sarah Klockowski

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**UNISON PRAYER**

Adapted from Maureen Killoran

Holy grandparents of the Universe, energies of creation:  
you are the music that sounded before our world was born,  
far beyond the most profound wisdom of humanity.  
Be with us, deepen our willingness to live without certainty,  
to take the risks of living on the edges of our creativity.  
Teach us to temper our impatience,  
to retain our conviction that what we do makes a difference,  
that even our smallest act can contribute to the good of a greater whole.  
Remind us we are never alone, not in our joys or in our tears.  
And in the blessing of our silence, may we feel your presence—  
something greater than we have yet been able to comprehend.  
Amen.

**OFFERTORY**

Coleman's March    traditional tune    Evie Packineau, cello

**\*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**

Sarah Andrysiak

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**

The 23rd Psalm (dedicated to my mother)    Bobby McFerrin

## SECOND READING From Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Belief likewise depends on memory. "I believe" means: "I remember." For what is belief? Every one of us, at least once in our lifetime, has been able to perceive the existence of the Creator. Every one of us, at least once, has merited a glimpse of the beauty, the serenity, and the strength which flow from the souls of those who have walked with God.

However, such feelings and inspirations are not common occurrences. In the lives of most people they are as meteors which flare up for a moment and then disappear from sight. There are, however, people for whom these flashes ignite with them a light which will never be extinguished.

Faith means: If you ever once merit that the Hidden One appears to you, be faithful to Him all the days of your life. Faith means: To guard forever the echo which once burst upon the deep recesses of your soul.

### REFLECTION

"The Growing Edge of Faith"

Rev. Nate Klug

### \*CLOSING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Red #228 tune: Hyfrydol

### \*OUR CALL TO MINISTRY

Sarah Andrysiak

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

Trumpet Tune in D

David Johnson

*A note from Miranda regarding the choral anthem:*

*Many of you might know the piece in 1988 that brought Bobby McFerrin his first fame, "Don't Worry, Be Happy." He has since created a career from composing, performing, recording, teaching and collaborating. He still runs workshops and 24-hour Circle-song events where people sing in harmonies from easily repeatable patterns which shift over time and create a mesmerizing almost hypnotic experience of oneness. Although everyone's voice is unique, McFerrin is known for his incredible musicality across a wide range of pitches, often accompanying himself with body music (clicks, beats, claps) acrobatically between singing legato over broken chords. His musical setting of Psalm 23 in honor of his mother is a tranquil piece in which he changes "he" to "she".*

*I love how he reminds us that music is profound, collaborative and also playful!*

*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:  
Ken Hurd, Becca Fasciano , and Sarah Andrysiak.



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)*

*Sarah Klockowski, Ministry Associate; [sarah@fplincn.org](mailto:sarah@fplincn.org)*

*Lora Venesy, Religious Exploration Coordinator; [lora@fplincn.org](mailto:lora@fplincn.org)*

*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 22 at 11:30am**

Presented by the Racial Justice Advocates

Perhaps you've heard terms like "identity politics," "white supremacy," or "intersectionality." The specific contexts out of which these phrases arose, and the variety of their current meanings and implications, might be surprising. Join Sarah and Nate after church for another session in which we explore the history and current contexts of some of the most important – and sometimes challenging – phrases in our discourse around race and racism. We'll offer a space for sharing our own reactions, inspirations, and confusions.

### **Big Questions Book Club      Mon. Jan. 23, 3:30-5pm**

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.

- Mon. Jan. 23, 3:30-5pm: "Lost & Found" by Kathryn Schultz
- Mon. Feb. 27, 3:30-5pm: "How to Begin When Your World is Ending" by Molly Baskette
- Mon. March 27, 3:30-5pm: "Aging with Wisdom" with Olivia Hoblitzelle

### **Weekly Meditation      Tuesday, January 24<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.

### **Movie Night - Sing 2      Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm**

Parish House, 14 Bedford Road

First Parish is hosting a movie night with pizza and popcorn! Come get cozy and watch Sing 2 with us! Please RSVP so we have an accurate count for all our nibbles

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

Zoom

**Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 12pm**

Led by Sarah Klockowski

### **Quiet Walks      Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**

Led by Andy Falender and Jackie Lenth

### **Ladies Tea\*      Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 pm**

With Sarah Andrysiak

