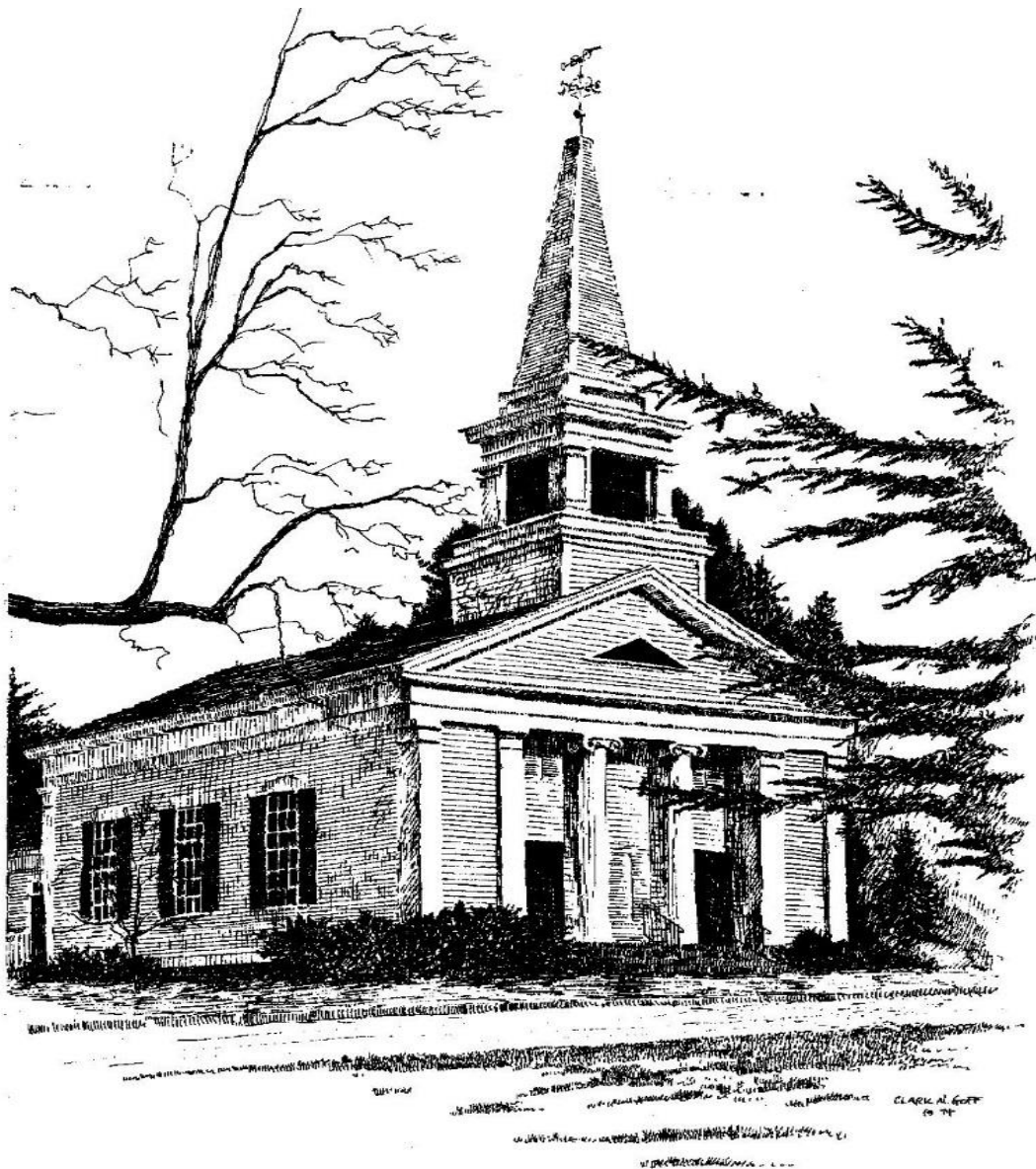


THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

An Open and Welcoming Church



Sunday, January 29, 2023 ❖ 10 a.m.

January's Worship Theme: The Growing Edge

The First Parish in Lincoln

Sunday, January 29 ❖ 10 a.m.

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

PRELUDE Selections from Little Preludes and Fugues J.S. Bach

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME Sarah Klockowski

***OPENING WORDS** from enflashed, adapted

One: When we hunger for justice and thirst for the liberation of all life
When we want for collective flourishing

Many: *Blessed are we, for our longings will birth the dreams of God.*

One: When we weep with all the world's aches
When we find ourselves filled with sorrow
because of what is cruel, what is lost, what is forgotten

Many: *Blessed are we, for God weeps through us.*

One: When we face consequences socially or economically
for our refusal to go with the flow of normalized evil
When our truth-telling or practices of love leave us isolated or
condemned

Many: *Blessed are we, for we offer a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.*

One: God draws near wherever hearts are open.

Many: *Love, come and shape our understanding!*

***OPENING HYMN** Peace! The Perfect Word Gray, #161

INVOCATION Rev. Kit Novotny

COVENANT Sarah Andrysiak

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 Rev. Kit Novotny

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

FIRST READING Micah 6:6-8
With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

God has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you?
To do justice and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Sarah Andrysiak

PRAYER HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Gray, #20

SILENCE

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Rev. Kit Novotny and Sarah Klockowski

PASTORAL PRAYER

Sarah Andrysiak

UNISON PRAYER

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

OFFERTORY

Praeludium in C - 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**

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 O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace

Christopher Tye

SECOND READING Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON "The Upside Down Kingdom"

Sarah Klockowski

***CLOSING HYMN** Holy, Holy, Holy

Gray #26

***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 Prelude and Fugue in C

J.S. Bach

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



Flowers this week are given in loving memory of Ralph Crosby on the occasion of his birthday by Doug & Laura Crosby.



We thank today's ushers for their service:
Tricia Deck and Nancy Donaldson, Dwight Gertz and Ginny Welles



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. 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

Revs Kit Novotny & Nate Klug, Co-Ministers; kit@fplincn.org; nate@fplincn.org

Sarah Klockowski, Ministry Associate; sarah@fplincn.org

Lora Venesy, Religious Exploration Coordinator; lora@fplincn.org

Miranda Loud, Music Director and Organist; mirandaloud574@gmail.com

Paris Parks, Livestream Coordinator

Silvia Dieckow, Administrator; 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.*

Weekly Meditation

Tuesday, January 31st 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.

Coffee & Compassion*

Thursday, February 2nd from 9-10 am

Join zoom meeting

Led by Rev. Kit Novotny

Join Rev. Kit Novotny for a cup of coffee and a chance to connect heart-to-heart.

Quiet Walks

Friday, February 3rd at 1:30pm

Led by Andy Falender and Jackie Lenth

Ladies Tea*

Friday, February 3rd at 4 pm

With Sarah Andrysiak

SIP TALK LEARN*

Sunday, February 12th from 4 to 5:30pm

Stearns Room & Zoom

We will gather again in the Stearns Room to hear three minute stories told by community members. Do you have a passion for a hobby, your occupation or perhaps a story you can tell the assembled guests? Or do you know something we should know? The idea is that all guests will leave having learned something new and gotten to know you better. Everyone has at least one story to tell, right? We will be inviting people from the wider Lincoln Community as well this time so please reserve your slot by contacting Tucker Smith at tuckerwsmith@gmail.com.