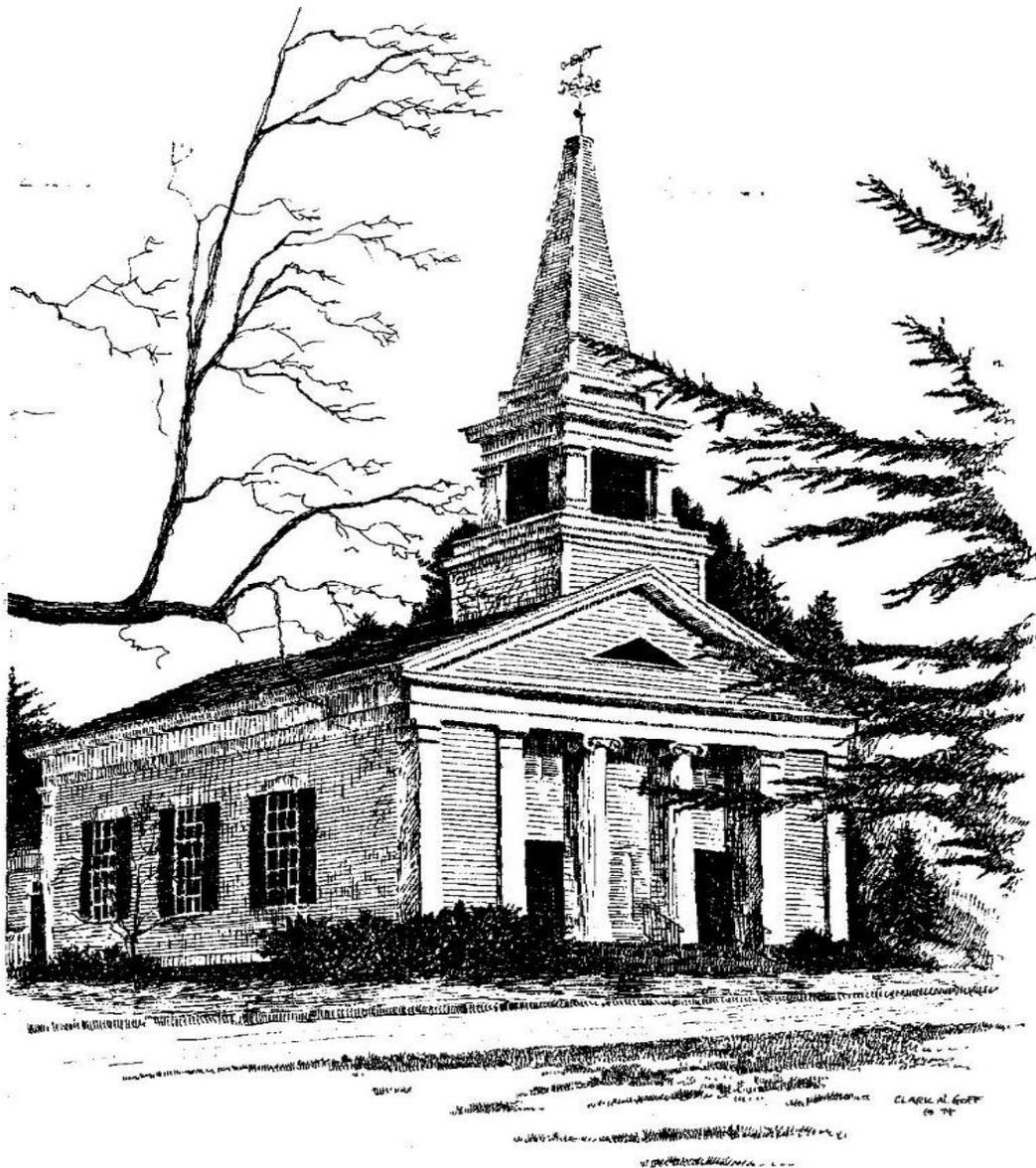


# THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

*An Open and Welcoming Church*



**Sunday, February 05, 2023 ❖ 10 a.m.**

**February's Worship Theme: *Love is a Verb***

**The First Parish in Lincoln**

**Sunday, February 05 ❖ 10 a.m.**

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

**PRELUDE** Partita in Bb J.S. Bach

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME** Rev. Kit Novotny

**\*OPENING WORDS** From Albert Schweitzer

One: At times our own light goes out

**Many:** *And is rekindled by a spark from another person.*

One: Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude

**Many:** *Of those who have lighted the flame within us.*

**\*OPENING HYMN** “Love Will Guide Us” Gray, #132

**INVOCATION** Rev. Nate Klug

**COVENANT** Larry Buell

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.s Kit & Nate, and Lora Venesy (Acting RE Director)

*Make new friends, and keep the old.  
One is silver, and the other's gold.*

*A circle is round, it has no end.  
That's how long I want to be your  
friend.*

**FIRST READING** Sarah Klockowski

From “A Life For A Life,” by Dinah Maria Mulock Craik (1859)

But oh! the blessing it is to have a friend to whom one can speak fearlessly on any subject; with whom one's deepest as well as one's most foolish thoughts come out simply and safely. Oh, the comfort—the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person—having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

**INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER** Larry Buell

**Blessed Be the Tie That Binds** 393

*John Fawcett, 1782; alt.* *Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15*

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
 2 Be-fore our God we come and pour our ar-dent prayers;  
 3 We share each oth-er's woes, each oth-er's bur-dens bear,  
 4 When we are called to part it gives us in-ward pain,

The shar-ing of a com-mon life is like to that a-bove.  
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares.  
 And of-ten for each oth-er flows a sym-pa-thiz-ing tear.  
 But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a-gain.

*An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.*

Tune: DENNIS S.M.  
 Melody by Johann G. Nügel (c. 1768-1836)  
 Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

**SILENCE**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Sarah Klockowski & Rev. Nate Klug

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Larry Buell

**UNISON PRAYER** Adapted from Eusebius, the 3rd Century Christian Bishop

May I be no one's enemy and may I be the friend of that which is eternal and abides.

May I wish for every person's happiness and envy none.

May I never rejoice in the ill fortune of one who has wronged me.

May I, to the extent of my power, give needful help to all who are in want.

May I never fail a friend.

May I respect myself.

May I keep tame that which rages within me, and untame that which leads to liberation.

May I accustom myself to be gentle with others and not swept away by anger.

May I know good people and follow in their footsteps.

Amen.

**OFFERTORY**

Concerto in G Major: Presto, BWV 592

J.S. Bach/Vivaldi

**\*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** "If Ye Love Me"

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me  
Keep my commandments  
And I will pray the Father  
And he shall give you another comforter  
That he may 'bide with you forever  
E'en the spirit of truth

**SECOND READING** John 15:12-17

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**SERMON** "Soul Friends"

Rev. Kit Novotny

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Lean On Me"

Music and Lyrics by Bill Withers

Sometimes in our lives  
We all have pain, we all have sorrow.  
But if we are wise,  
We know that there's always tomorrow.

*Refrain: Lean on me when you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on  
For it won't be long  
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.*

Please swallow your pride  
If I have things you need to borrow  
For no one can fill those of your needs  
That you won't let show.

You just call on me, brother, when you need a hand  
We all need somebody to lean on.  
I just might have a problem that you'll understand,  
We all need somebody to lean on.

***Refrain***

If there is a load you have to bear  
That you can't carry  
I'm right up the road, I'll share your load  
If you just call me.

**\*OUR CALL TO MINISTRY**

Larry Buell

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. Kit Novotny

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

“Ubi Caritas”

music: Jacques Berthier

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**POSTLUDE**

Concerto in G Major: Allegro, BWV 592 J.S. Bach/Vivaldi

*Notes on Today's Anthem:*

*First published in 1565 during the reign of Elizabeth I, If Ye Love Me by Thomas Tallis, is a perfect example of the new wave of church choral music during the Tudor period in which all anthems needed to be in English (instead of in Latin) and have one syllable per note. This made the anthems easier to sing and easier to understand and was a contrast to music by composers such as Josquin des Prez who often had the different choral parts sing for measures on one syllable and in latin. Tallis creates a sense of calm and comfort in this short motet using interweaving and imitative motives that repeat the words from John's Gospel like an insistent and beseeching prayer, and ultimately resolve in the simple statement at the end.*

*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.



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.



## **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.*

**Big Question Book Club: Lost & Found (take 2)**  
Zoom (Link on website)

**Monday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm**

**Weekly Meditation**

**Tuesday, February 7<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.

**\*Sacred Texts**

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

Zoom

Led by Sarah Klockowski

**Soul Matters Engagement Group**  
Stearns Room

**Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**

With R.L. Smith

**Soul Matters Engagement Group**  
Stearns Room

**Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**

With Paula Waterman

**Quiet Walks**

**Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**

Led by Andy Falender and Jackie Lenth

**Poetry for Seekers**

**Friday, February 10<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!

**SIP TALK LEARN\***  
Stearns Room & Zoom

**Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 5:30pm**

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](mailto:tuckerwsmith@gmail.com).

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

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*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)*