

THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

An Open and Welcoming Church



Sunday, February 12, 2023 ❖ 10 a.m.

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

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

PRELUDE Pièces de Clavecin Louis Couperin and Jean Philippe Rameau

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME Rev. Nate Klug

***OPENING WORDS** Adapted from Kimberlee Carlson

One: It is not by chance that we arrived here today.

All: *We have been looking for something larger than ourselves.*

One: Inside of us there is a yearning, a calling, a hope for more.

All: *A desire for belonging and caring, humor and challenge.*

One: And so, we come seeking a beloved community...

All: *A people that does not put fences around love...*

One: A people that holds its arms open to possibility.

All: *Welcome home, welcome to worship!*

***OPENING HYMN** My Life Flows On in Endless Song Gray #108

INVOCATION Sarah Klockowski

COVENANT Mary Jo Veling

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 Becca Fasciano
Lincoln Public Schools 21-Day Challenge

SUNG RESPONSE Every Time I Feel the Spirit Gray #208

FIRST READING Song of Songs 2:8-13, 8:6-7

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:
'Arise, my love, my fair one,

and come away;

for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Mary Jo Veling

PRAYER HYMN

When Love is Found (v.1-3)

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SILENCE

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Rev. Kit Novotny and Sarah Klockowski

PASTORAL PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER Adapted from Beth Neel

Beloved, we celebrate relationships of all kinds where love is flourishing.
Where each person becomes their best self.

And we acknowledge there are broken relationships and broken hearts.

Sometimes we are the cause of those things. We have caused pain.

Sometimes we are simply a part of them – we are the ones who suffer, we are
the ones who are broken.

So we ask for your forgiveness, and we ask for your healing.

Beyond that, we ask that you would help all of us grow into the persons you
have created us to be, full of mercy and grace and love. Amen.

OFFERTORY The Arts and the Hours (from Les Boréades) Jean Philippe Rameau

***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 Ubi Caritas

Maurice Duruflé

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a
sincere heart.

SECOND READING

Luke 24: 13-16, 28-32

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

...

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'

REFLECTION

"When Relationships Change"

Rev. Nate Klug

***CLOSING HYMN**

I've Got Peace Like a River (v.1-3)

Gray, #100

***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**

"Ubi Caritas"

music: Jacques Berthier

ANNOUNCEMENTS**POSTLUDE**

Praeludium in G, BWV 541

J.S. Bach

Matt. 19:6; Mark 10:8

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1992

Unison

1 When love is found and hope comes home, sing and be
 2 When love has flowered in trust and care, build both each
 3 When love is tried as loved-ones change, hold still to
 4 When love is torn, and trust be - trayed, pray strength to
 5 Praise God for love, praise God for life, in age or

glad that two are one. When love ex - plodes and fills the
 day, that love may dare to reach be - yond home's warmth and
 hope, though all seems strange, till ease re - turns and love grows
 love till tor - ments fade, till lov - ers keep no score of
 youth, in calm or strife. Lift up your hearts! Let love be

sky, praise God, and share our Mak - er's joy.
 light, to serve and strive for truth and right.
 wise through lis - tening ears and o - pened eyes.
 wrong, but hear through pain love's Eas - ter song.
 fed through death and life in bro - ken bread.

Brian Wren has noted one important hope for all committed Christian relationships, "that love may reach out beyond the nuclear family, rather than the more cozy and familiar theme of inviting others into 'home's warmth and light.'"

Tune: O WALY WALY L.M.
 English folk melody
 Arr. Jonathan McNair, 1993

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

The flowers are given this morning by Sarah Bishop in celebration of the love between a mother and a child. Please take a rose from the vase to someone you love.



We thank today's ushers for their service:



Please note: There will be no RE program and no Nursery Care next Sunday, Feb 19, due to the school vacation week.



Nursery Care will resume on Feb 26, along with a small optional RE activity.



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

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Paris Parks, Livestream Coordinator

Silvia Dieckow, Administrator; silvia@fplincn.org



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.*

***The Forum: Theology of Hymns** **Sunday, February 12th at 11:30 am**
Stearns Room & Zoom Led by Miranda Loud

Let's take a deep dive into the two hymnals in our pews and look at the variety of ways composers and cultures have set the same texts.

SIP TALK LEARN* **Sunday, February 12th from 4 to 5:30pm**
Stearns Room & Zoom Led by Tucker Smith

We will gather again in the Stearns Room to hear three-minute stories told by community members.

Events for our Youth **Sunday, February 12th**

- **9th grade Dinner** **Parish House Window Room 5:30- 7:00pm.**
We will have discussion on Valentine's Day and plan for our service project with Household Goods. Please rsvp by Feb. 10 to Nate, so we can have the right amount of food!
- **OWL** **Parish House Donaldson Room from 7:00- 8:30pm.**
Our 8th graders will be discussing relationships & relationship skills.

Weekly Meditation **Tuesday, February 14th 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.

Pizza & Game Night **Wednesday, February 15th at 5pm**
Led by YPC

There will be board game stations, card games, a craft, ping pong table, foosball table and pool table! This is a drop-off event – the evening will be supervised by adult and teenage church members

***Sacred Texts** **Thursday, January 16th at 12pm**
Zoom Led by Sarah Klockowski

Quiet Walks **Friday, February 17th at 1:30pm**
Led by Andy Falender and Jackie Lenth

Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday Service

Sanctuary & Livestream

Wednesday, February 22nd at 7pm

Service led by Sarah Klockowski. Music by Miranda Loud.

Join us for a special evening service of music and meditation, readings and ritual as we begin the lenten season.

Lent Retreat

Saturday, March 4th from 10am-3pm

A day of reflection and grounding through meditation, yoga, writing, and a sound bath.

Childcare available upon request. More details to follow.

Firepits for Five

Saturday, March 4th at 3:00pm

Please email Lucy Sachs if you would like to join one and/or could provide a firepit:

lucysachs@me.com. It is a great way to gather outside!