

THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

An Open and Welcoming Church



Sunday, March 26, 2023 ❖ 10 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Worship Theme: Dwelling Places

The First Parish in Lincoln

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

PRELUDE

Cláusulas de VIII Tono
Berceuse

Fray Tomas de Santa Maria
Louis Vierne

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Rev. Kit Novotny

***OPENING WORDS**

From "In Time of Silver Rain" by Langston Hughes

One: In time of silver rain

Many: The earth puts forth new life again

One: Green grasses grow, and flowers lift their heads,

Many: And over all the plain

One: The wonder spreads

ALL: Of life, of life, of life!

***OPENING HYMN**

"Come to Tend God's Garden"

(page 7)

INVOCATION

Rev. Mary Margaret Earl,
Executive Director & Senior Minister, UU Urban Ministry

COVENANT

Barbara O'Neil

In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus
We unite for the worship of God and the service of all.

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY

Paula Waterman

FIRST READING

Mark 4: 1 - 9, The Parable of the Sower

Rev. Nate Klug

Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on a path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." And he said, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Barbara O'Neil

PRAYER HYMN

"One More Step"

(Gray #168)

SILENCE

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Rev. Kit Novotny & Rev. Nate Klug

PASTORAL PRAYER

Barbara O'Neil

UNISON PRAYER

(From the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Here in God's Garden"

Flor Peeters

***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 The Road Home

music: Stephen Paulus

Jacqueline LaFerriere, soloist

text Michael Browne

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost,
So long ago?

All these years I have wandered,
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done.
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong:
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

SECOND READING From White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo

Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

African-American scholar and filmmaker Omawale Akintunde says "racism is a systemic, societal, institutional, omnipresent, and epistemologically embedded phenomenon that pervades every vestige of our reality. For most whites, however, racism is like murder - the concept exists, but someone has to commit it in order for it to happen. This limited view of such a multi-layered syndrome cultivates the sinister nature of racism and, in fact, perpetuates racist phenomena rather than eradicates them."

The good - bad frame is a false dichotomy. All people hold prejudices, especially across racial lines in a society deeply divided by race. I can be told that everyone is equal by my parents, I can have friends of color, and I may not tell racist jokes. Yet I am still affected by the forces of racism as a member of society in which racism is the bedrock. I will still be seen as white, treated as white, and experience life as a white person. My identity, personality, interests, and investments will develop from a white perspective. I will have a white worldview and a white frame of reference.

In a society in which race clearly matters, our race profoundly shapes us. If we want to challenge this construct, we must make an honest accounting of how it is manifest in our own lives and in the society around us.

SERMON "The Gardener's Guide to Justice" Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

***CLOSING HYMN** "Morning Has Broken" (Gray #38)

***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**

Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

***CHORAL RESPONSE** As We Leave This Friendly Place

Words: Vincent Silliman, Music: J.S. Bach

As we leave this friendly place,
Love give light to every face;
May the kindness which we learn
Light our hearts till we return.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE All Glory, Laud, and Honor, BWV 736

**Feel free to depart or remain seated during our postlude.*



We thank today's ushers for their service:
Terry Green, David O'Neil, and Jane O'Rourke.



This week's flowers are given by Mary Stechschulte.



Notes on Today's Anthem:

Michael Browne, who wrote the text for today's anthem, says:

"In writing words for "The Road Home," I was also trying to suggest the consolation that can come to someone of faith, in times of great stress, as a result of prayer and an abiding belief in divine mercy. I was writing something to be heard as many voices carrying the stirring melody and not as something self-reliant, to stand on its own the way a poem must do."



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



This Sunday, children in grades K-8 will begin up the hill in the Parish House for our Religious Exploration program. We will be learning about bells and chimes played by the bell choir. We welcome all who would like to join these workshops. Babies and toddlers (age 0-5ish) are welcome in our nursery, also located downstairs in the Parish House (14 Bedford Rd).



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: Today, Sunday, March 26 after Worship**
De-coding Violence Using STEAM Education
With Hauwa Ibrahim

Join us after worship on Sunday, March 26th for a special Forum led by Hauwa Ibrahim. She'll share about her leadership and work with The Peace Institute, a non-profit serving refugee children in northern Nigeria

***Aging with Wisdom Monday, March 27th at 3:30pm**
Led by Olivia Hoblitzelle

Olivia, a long time friend of FPL, will lead our conversation on Monday, March 27, 3:30-5:00 pm. A zoom link will follow. Olivia developed and taught one of the first Mind/Body medicine programs in the country, pioneered the integration of meditation, yoga and cognitive therapy with Western medicine, and trained health professionals at Harvard Medical School. All are welcome.

Weekly Meditation Tuesday, March 28, 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.

***Sacred Texts Thursday, March 30, at 12 pm**
Led By Sarah Klockowski

Quiet Walks Friday, March 31, at 1:30pm
Led by Andy Falender and Jackie Lenth

Bill McKibben Sunday, April 2, at 3:00pm

The Flag, The Cross, and the Station Wagon

Join us as Bill McKibben reads from his latest book, The Flag, The Cross, and the Station Wagon, focusing particularly on themes of housing and race.

Bill McKibben is an author, educator, and environmentalist, who helped found 350.org, the first global grassroots climate campaign, and who has recently helped found Third Act, to build a progressive organizing movement for people over the age of 60.

May Market Saturday, April 8

May Market started in 1981. It is a remarkable earth friendly community event.

We need all hands on deck. If you can help the day off or the week leading to it, please contact maymarket@fplincoln.org

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.



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.



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, Director of Religious Exploration; lora@fplincn.org

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

Paris Parks, Livestream Coordinator

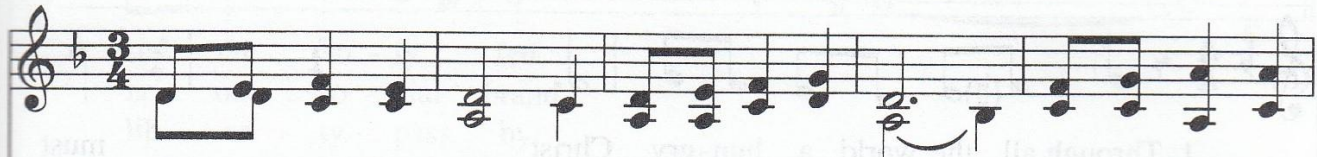
Silvia Dieckow, Administrator; silvia@fplincn.org

Come to Tend God's Garden

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John A. Dalles, 1992

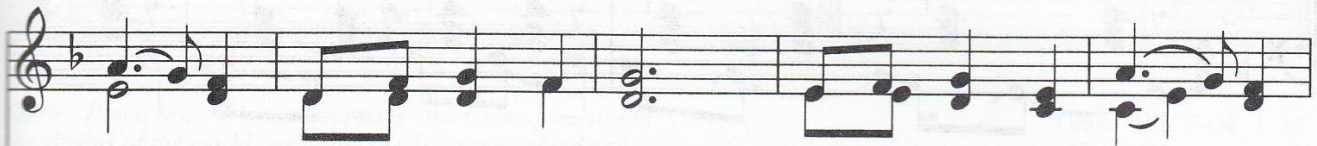
Luke 13:6-9; Gal. 5:22-26



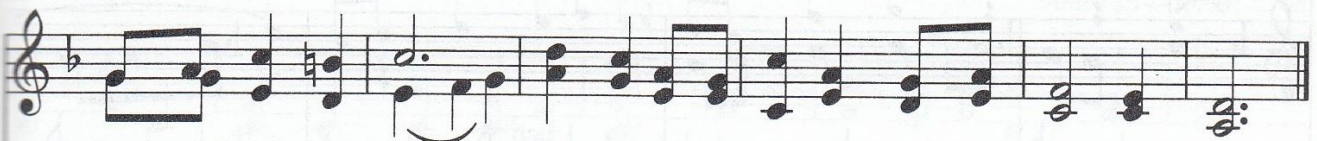
1 Come to tend God's gar - den, seeds of hope to sow, plant-ing fields of
 2 As we tend God's gar - den, from its fur-rows rise stems of fresh be -
 3 May God's gar - den flour - ish, may our toil suc - ceed, may God bless our



*Whenever this repeated figure appears in the bass,
 the organist should tie the eighth notes in the bass part.



jus - tice, watch-ing mer - cy grow! In an ar - id waste - land,
 gin - nings, stretch-ing toward the skies! Gra-cious-ness, our mead - ow,
 ac - tions, ev - ery word and deed! Serv-ing Christ each sea - son,



spread a ver-dant heath! In a land of tu-mult, cul - ti - vate God's peace!
 joy - ful - ness, our root, u - ni-ty, our fo-liage, righ-teous-ness, our fruit!
 with God's di - a - gram, chart-ed by the Spir-it, for the task at hand!



John Dalles is the author of more than 200 hymn texts. This one was written for the 275th anniversary of the Synod of the Trinity (Pennsylvania), where Dalles has served as a pastor at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh.

Tune: KING'S WESTON 6.5.6.5.D.
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925
 For another setting see 255