

THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

An Open and Welcoming Church



Photograph by Jessica Cooper

Sunday May 7, 2023 ❖ 10 a.m.
“Soil, Fungi, and Other Cancel Cultures”

The First Parish in Lincoln
Spring Worship Theme: Sacred Nature

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

PRELUDE Air on a G String J.S. Bach

Welcome! Please enjoy the prelude in a spirit of meditation.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME Rev. Nate Klug

***OPENING WORDS** Based on Psalm 65

One: Praise is due to you, Holy One!

Many: You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it.

One: You provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

Many: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

One: The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy.

Many: The meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain. They shout, and sing together for joy.

***OPENING HYMN** Bring Many Names Gray #23

INVOCATION Sarah Klockowski

COVENANT Doug Crosby

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

BLESSING OF STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES Stewardship Committee

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:1-2, 18-19 Rev. Kit Novotny

But now thus says God,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

...

Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Doug Crosby

PRAYER HYMN

Inch by Inch, Row by Row

Pete Seeger

Refrain:

*Inch by inch, row by row
Gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe
And a piece of fertile ground
Inch by inch, row by row
Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
'Till the rain comes tumblin' down*

Verse:

Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones
Man is made of dreams and bones
Feel the need to grow my own
'Cause the time is close at hand
Grain for grain, sun and rain
Find my way in Nature's chain
Tune my body and my brain
To the music from the land

Refrain:

Inch by Inch...

Verse:

Plant your rows straight and long
Temper them with prayer and song
Mother Earth will make you strong
If you give her loving care
An old crow watching hungrily
From his perch in yonder tree
In my garden I'm as free
As that feathered thief up there

Refrain: Inch by inch...

SILENCE

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER

Adapted from UUA Worship Web

Spirit, if we have any hope
of transforming the world and changing ourselves,
we must be bold enough
to step into our discomfort,
vulnerable enough
to be clumsy there,
loving enough
to forgive ourselves and others.
May we, as a people of faith,
be granted the strength
to be so bold, so vulnerable,
and so loving. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Alleluia Chaconne (variant on Pachelbel's Canon)

Johann Pachelbel

*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: 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

For the Beauty of the Earth

Philip Stopford

SECOND READING

From "This Compost"

Walt Whitman

Behold this compost! behold it well!
Perhaps every mite has once form'd part of a sick person—yet behold!
The grass of spring covers the prairies,
The bean bursts noiselessly through the mould in the garden,
The delicate spear of the onion pierces upward,

The apple-buds cluster together on the apple-branches,
The resurrection of the wheat appears with pale visage out of its graves,
The tinge awakes over the willow-tree and the mulberry-tree,
The he-birds carol mornings and evenings while the she-birds sit on their nests,
The young of poultry break through the hatch'd eggs,
The new-born of animals appear, the calf is dropt from the cow, the colt from the
mare,
Out of its little hill faithfully rise the potato's dark green leaves,
Out of its hill rises the yellow maize-stalk, the lilacs bloom in the dooryards,
The summer growth is innocent and disdainful above all those strata of sour dead.

What chemistry!

That the winds are really not infectious,
That this is no cheat, this transparent green-wash of the sea which is so amorous
after me,
That it is safe to allow it to lick my naked body all over with its tongues,
That it will not endanger me with the fevers that have deposited themselves in it,
That all is clean forever and forever,
That the cool drink from the well tastes so good,
That blackberries are so flavorful and juicy,
That the fruits of the apple-orchard and the orange-orchard, that melons, grapes,
peaches, plums, will none of them poison me,
That when I recline on the grass I do not catch any disease,
Though probably every spear of grass rises out of what was once a catching disease.

Now I am terrified at the Earth, it is that calm and patient,
It grows such sweet things out of such corruptions,
It turns harmless and stainless on its axis, with such endless successions of diseases'd
corpses,
It distills such exquisite winds out of such infused fetor,
It renews with such unwitting looks its prodigal, annual, sumptuous crops,
It gives such divine materials to [people], and accepts such leavings from them at
last.

SERMON

“Soil, Fungi, and Other Cancel Cultures”

Rev. Nate Klug

***CLOSING HYMN**

Renew Your Church

page 6

***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** God Be With You Thomas A. Dorsey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE Two Tunes from the John Playford Country Dance Collection

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



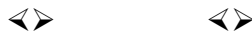
We thank today's ushers Nancy Henderson, Alice DeNormandie, and Tom DeNormandie.



This week's flowers are given by Christel Ide in loving memory of Kenton.



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



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.



www.fplincn.org

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Matt. 5:13-16; Luke 11:1-4; Mark 12:28-34

Kenneth L. Cober, 1960; alt.

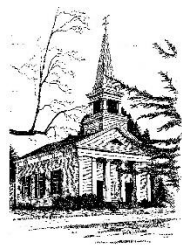
1 Re - new your church, its min - is - tries re - store: both to serve
 2 Teach us your word, re - veal its truth di - vine; on our path
 3 Teach us to pray, for you are ev - er near; your still voice
 4 Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all—

and a - dore. Make us a - gain as salt through-out the land,
 let it shine. Tell of your works, your might - y acts of grace;
 let us hear. Our souls are rest - less till they rest in you;
 hu - man-kind! Break down old walls of prej - u - dice and hate;

and as light from a stand. 'Mid som - ber shad - ows
 from each page show your face. As you have sent your
 this is life, full and true. Be - fore your pres - ence
 leave us not to our fate. As you have loved and

of the night, where greed and ha - tred spread their blight, O
 Christ to save, in love to tri - umph o'er the grave, O
 keep us still that we may find for us your will, And
 given your life to end hos - til - i - ty and strife, Your

send us forth with power en - dued. Help us, God, be re - newed.
 let our hearts with love be stirred. Help us, God, know your word.
 seek your guid - ance ev - ery day. Teach us, God, how to pray.
 grace we must be mind - ful of: Teach us, God, how to love.



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.*

From the Strategic Planning Committee

Strategic Planning "Spring Forward" Conversations. Please join members of our strategic planning team in a discussion of FPL's long-term plan. You can provide your input at one of our 90-minute facilitated roundtables, to be held at First Parish and at members' homes, during the month of May. Search for "Spring Forward" on the FPL website to sign up for one of the sessions. We want to hear from you!

Stone Soup Climate Friendly Potluck

Location: Parish House

This Sunday, May 7 directly after worship at the Parish House to celebrate the end of our "Stone Soup" Stewardship campaign, we'll share a potluck lunch right after church.

Today, Sunday, May 7, after Worship

Weekly Meditation

If you would like up-to-date information, contact Joan Kimball at selenejck@gmail.com to receive the weekly meditation emails.

Tuesday, May 9, at 4 pm

Led by Joan Kimball and Ben Wells

Food for Thought

Parish House Auditorium

Join us for an adventuresome and enlightening supper and discussion of SIDETRACK, an innovative 1971 experiment in educational integration for Lincoln and Roxbury 7th graders with participants Peter Thomson (Lincoln) and Tracy Steele (Roxbury). To learn more about Sidetrack see Boston Sunday Globe, January 22, 2023. Childcare provided; Requested donation for the meal (prepared by FPL "chefs") \$10 for adults \$5 per child \$25 for a family mx. Advance Registration not necessary.

Wednesday, May 10, at 6pm

Hosted by RJA

Soul Matters Engagement Group

Stearns Room

***Sacred Texts**

online

Soul Matters Engagement Group

Garrison Room

Quiet Walks

Poetry for Seekers Spring Party

Stearns Room

Thursday, May 11, at 10:30 am

With R.L. Smith

Thursday, May 11, at 12 pm

Led By Sarah Klockowski

Friday, May 12, at 1:30 pm

With Paula Waterman

Friday, May 12, at 1:30 pm

Led by Andy Falender and Jackie Lenth

Friday, May 12, at 4 pm

Led by Rev. Nate Klug

From Religious Exploration

Today, Sunday, May 7

We will be collecting donations for our local food pantry. Children/youth ages 6 & up can be dropped off at Donelan's Food market in Lincoln at 9:30am, with Thornton Ring and Anna Bishop, our adult supervisors that day. After donations are delivered to the food pantry (across the street), children can be picked up at 11:30 at Donelan's. Everyone is invited back to Parish Hall for a plant-based potluck! Nursery care is available as usual for children aged 0-5 downstairs in the Parish House with Debby.

Youth Worship Planning Meeting: Sunday, May 7th 5:30-6:30pm

We'll enjoy pizza & snacks while we finish up planning for our May 14th "Mother Earth" worship service. All teens are welcome (even if it's your 1st meeting).

Thurs. May 11th - Grade 5 OWL Parent Information Session- 7:30-8:30pm

in the Stearns Room (down the hill).

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive sexuality education program we are proud to offer this fall for 5th graders. This session is required for registration, but you are not required to sign up if you attend. The class fee is \$150 and limited to 15 participants.

Questions? Contact Lora at lora@fplincn.org.