

THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

An Open and Welcoming Church



Sunday, May 21, 2023 ❖ 10 a.m.

“Living Water”

FIRST READING

“Like The Water” by Wendell Berry

Rev. Nate Klug

Like the water
of a deep stream,
love is always too much.
We did not make it.
Though we drink till we burst,
we cannot have it all,
or want it all.
In its abundance
it survives our thirst.

In the evening we come down to the shore
to drink our fill,
and sleep,
while it flows
through the regions of the dark.
It does not hold us,
except we keep returning to its rich waters
thirsty.

We enter,
willing to die,
into the commonwealth of its joy.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Doug Crosby

PRAYER HYMN

Wade in the Water

Gray #210

SILENCE**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Rev. Nate Klug and Sarah Klockowski

PASTORAL PRAYER**OFFERTORY**

Improvisation on “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

***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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Joys are Flowing Like a River

Words: Manie Ferguson

Music: William J. Kirkpatrick

Arrangement: Peter Amidon

SECOND READING

Matthew 10:40-42

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

John 7:37-38

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

SERMON

"Living Water"

Rev. Kit Novotny

***CLOSING HYMN**

O Come, You Longing Thirsty Souls

Gray #209

***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 AND WATER BLESSING**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** Shall We Gather at the River

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

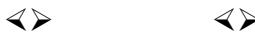
Hyfrydol

Ralph Vaughan Williams

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



We thank today's ushers Ken Hurd, David Elmes, and Lynn Elmes.



This week's flowers are given by Ruth Ann Hendrickson:

For my grandmother Ruth Lessetta Snyder Garber who walked with Jesus every day of her life and taught me to see the beauty of God's earth.



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.





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.*

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!

We will explore several questions, such as:

- *Describe a recent FPL moment that you found particularly moving/exciting/engaging.*
- *What's one thing that you'd like FPL to try that would deepen your engagement?*
- *What would you like to see us do to achieve our vision of being “a source of hope and positive impact in our communities, our region and beyond”.*

If you would prefer to provide input **online**, please fill out the **short survey** (linked in the News Brief and on our website) **by June 1st**. Your input will help determine FPL's plans for the future and will shape the Church for years to come! Thank you!

***The Forum: Transgender & Nonbinary Inclusion**

TODAY, Sunday, May 21 after Worship
Led by Sarah Klockoswki

Part 1: Today, Sunday, May 21st After Worship

Part 2: Sunday, June 4th After Worship

Join us for a two part series led by Sarah Klockowski. Together we will seek to better understand what it means to be transgender and/or nonbinary, including what these terms mean. If this conversation is new to you, please know you are welcome!

We will also begin to think about practical steps we as a church can take to welcome and affirm trans and nonbinary people into the full life of our congregation, including a potential amendment to strengthen the inclusion of our church's Open & Welcoming Statement.

“Conversations on Tap: Launching Kids & Letting Go” The Tack Room, Lincoln

Monday, May 22
Led by Rev. Nate Klug & Lora Venesy, DRE

All parents (especially of teens/young adults) are invited to gather for a conversation around the topic of navigating those tender thresholds of new life chapters, the various challenges and joys that go along with these shifts, and the ongoing push-pull of connection and independence.

Weekly Meditation

Tuesday, May 23, 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**

online

Thursday, May 25, at 12 pm

Led by Sarah Klockowski

Quiet Walks

Friday, May 26, at 1:30 pm

Led by Andy Falender and Jackie Lenth

20s/30s Brunch

The Tack Room, Lincoln

Sunday, May 28th after worship

All young adults (20s/30s-ish!) are invited to join Sarah K. and friends for brunch next week!

Kids Game/Craft Night (& Parent BBQ)

Thursday, May 31, at 5 pm

Drop off kids ages 3+ up the hill in the Parish House at 5pm, & head down to the Stearns deck for some grown up time & BBQ! Kids will enjoy pizza and games & will head down the hill for popsicles at 6:45pm. This event is a celebration of our amazing community! It's free of charge, but please RSVP by 5/29.

Installation Service for the Revs. Kit Novotny and Nate Klug Sunday, June 11 at 4pm

After a full first year with us at FPL, Nate and Kit will be *formally* installed as our Co-Ministers in a ceremony that both affirms their call to our church and acknowledges the covenantal relationship between and among us all. Nate and Kit's friends, families, and colleagues are invited—and so is our entire congregation!

The Installation ceremony will take place in our Sanctuary on that last Sunday, June 11, at 4:00 p.m., and a reception will follow out on the lawn (weather permitting!). We hope

EVERYONE will be able to attend this wonderful celebration! Save the date!

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

David Eric, Livestream Coordinator

Silvia Dieckow, Administrator; silvia@fplincn.org