

The First Parish in Lincoln

An open and welcoming church



“In the Midst of the Multitude
of My Thoughts”

Worship Theme | The Stories We Tell
November 10, 2024 at 10am

Welcome to First Parish

Nurturing Spirituality | Building Community | Pursuing Justice

We are an open and welcoming community church formed in 1942 by the union of the Congregational (1746) and Unitarian (1842) churches in Lincoln. Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Land Acknowledgment. We gather today on the unceded homelands of the Massachusetts and Nipmuc peoples. Let us strive to honor all indigenous peoples by joining their efforts to pursue justice and care for this land. *An action step is included at the back of this bulletin.*



If you are visiting this morning, we are so glad you are here! We hope you'll join us for Coffee Hour after worship. Tell us about yourself or sign up for our mailing list by filling out a Virtual Connect Card.

Livestream. You can view past services on our YouTube page. If you don't wish to have your image included in a recording, please contact the church office or a minister.

One License #A-732063 | CCS # 15261

Assistive Listening Devices are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.



Give Online! Scan the QR code to contribute toward the Sunday Plate, a pledge, or a Special Offering.

Children's Program. Nursery care is available with Debby Adams starting at 9:30am on the lower level of the Parish House. Children K+ will meet in the Parish House for RE this morning. Pick up will be up the hill in the Parish House or on the playground at 11:30am.

- Grades K-5 with Lora and Melissa Deck
- Grades 6 & 7 with our very special guest Saadia Husain Balock and Chris Andrysiak

From 12 – 2pm, teens will meet in the Parish House to make lunches for CityReach.

We thank the following people for their contributions to today's service.

Deacon

Mary Jo Veling

Lay Leader

Dwight Gertz

Ushers

Barbara O'Neil

David O'Neil

Virginia Welles

Andy Falender

Altar Flowers

Alice and Surendra Shah

Given in memory of their

parents Jim and Martha

DeNormandie, Maniben Shah
and Alice's brother Newton

Hospitality

Rachel Mason

Gus Browne

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

PRELUDE

Canzona, BuxWV 170

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

RINGING OF THE BELL

INTROIT

What We Need Is Here

Amy McCreath

WELCOME

Rev. Nate Klug

***OPENING WORDS**

From Psalm 94, adapted

One: Who will rise up for righteousness?

All: Who will take a stand against evil?

One: Unless Spirit had given me help,
I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death.

**All: When I said, "My foot is slipping,"
your unfailing love supported me.**

One: In the midst of the multitude of my thoughts within me...

All: Your comfort brought me joy.

***OPENING HYMN** ♦ page 7

Be Not Afraid

Bob Dufford (b. 1943)

COVENANT | In Unison

Dwight Gertz

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Kit Novotny

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

SUNG RESPONSE

One Foot in Front of the Other

Melanie DeMore

Refrain: You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love
Put one foot in front of the other and lead with love

1. Don't give up hope You're not alone Don't you give up Keep movin' on
2. Lift up your eyes Don't you despair Look up ahead The path is there
3. I know you're scared And I'm scared too But here I am Right next to you

FIRST READING

Sarah Klockowski

1 John 4:7-8, 12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Dwight Gertz

PRAYER HYMN

There is a Balm in Gilead

African American Spiritual

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "There is a Balm in Gilead". It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5. The third staff concludes the phrase with quarter notes A5, Bb5, and C6. The lyrics are: "There_ is a balm in Gil- e - ad To make the wound- ed whole;_ There_ is a balm in Gil- e - ad To heal the sin - sick".

There_ is a balm in Gil- e - ad To
make the wound- ed whole;_ There_ is a
balm in Gil- e - ad To heal the sin - sick

Fine

soul. 1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And_

2. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you

think my work's in vain, But_ then the Ho - ly

can - not pray like Paul, You can tell the love of

Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain. There_ is a

Je - sus, And say "He died for all!" There_ is a

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

The Ministers

PASTORAL PRAYER

Dwight Gertz

UNISON PRAYER

From *Watching for the Kingfisher* | Ann Lewin, adapted

'All shall be well'...
 She must have said that
 Sometimes through gritted teeth.
 Surely she knew the moments
 When fear gnaws at trust,
 The future loses shape.
 The courage that says
 'All shall be well'

Doesn't mean feeling no fear,
 But facing it, trusting
 God won't let go.
 'All shall be well'
 Doesn't deny present experience,
 But roots it deep
 In the faithfulness of God,
 Whose will and gift is life.

INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

Dwight Gertz

OFFERTORY

Come By Here

African American Spiritual

*DOXOLOGY | In Unison

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 | In Unison

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

Dear God, Creator of Us All

C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)

Poem by John G. Whittier

Dear God, Creator of us all, forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper rev'rence, praise.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with
Thee The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small Voice of calm.

In simple trust like theirs who heard beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

SECOND READING

From “Beyond Vietnam” (1967) | Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered. ...

America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in this revolution of values. There is nothing except a tragic death wish to prevent us from reordering our priorities so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war. There is nothing to keep us from molding a recalcitrant status quo with bruised hands until we have fashioned it into a brotherhood. ...

A genuine revolution of values means in the final analysis that our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Every nation must now develop an overriding loyalty to [human]kind as a whole in order to preserve the best in their individual societies.

This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class, and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all [human]kind.

SERMON

Rev. Nate Klug

In the Midst of the Multitude of My Thoughts

***CLOSING HYMN**

Swimming to the Other Side

music and lyrics by Pat Humphries

Choir/soloist sings verses

Refrain: We are living 'neath the great big dipper
We are washed by the very same rain
We are swimming in this stream together
Some in power and some in pain
We can worship this ground we walk on
Cherishing the beings that we live beside
Loving spirits will live forever
We're all swimming to the other side

***OUR CALL TO MINISTRY |** In Unison

Dwight Gertz

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. Nate Klug

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Bless the World

Beth Norton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Praeludium in d, BuxWV 140

Dietrich Buxtehude

Feel free to depart or remain seated during our postlude. Please join us for Coffee Hour directly following worship in the Stearns Room!



Please recycle this program.

Bins are available in the narthex and the Stearns Room.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ACTION STEP. You are invited to learn about and support the Tribal Access to Clean Water Act of 2023, recognizing the critical importance of access to reliable, clean drinking water for Native Americans and affirming the responsibility of the Federal Government to ensure such water access. Scan the QR code to learn more about the relevant bills currently being considered at the federal level, and/or write your representative to express your support using the sample support letter provided as a guide.



*OPENING HYMN ♦ page 7

Be Not Afraid

Bob Dufford (b. 1943)

Verse 1



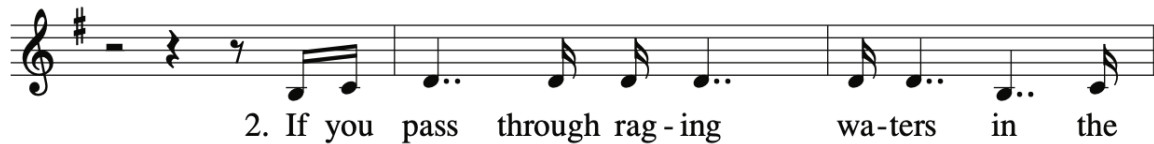
1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wan-der far in safe-ty though you do not know the way. You shall speak your words in for-eign lands and all will un-der-stand. You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain



Be not a - fraid. I go be - fore you al - ways.
Come, fol-low me, and I will give you rest.

Verse 2




2. If you pass through rag - ing wa-ters in the

sea, you shall not drown. If you walk a-mid the burn-ing flames,
 you shall not be harmed. If you stand be-fore the
 pow'r of hell and death is at your side,
 know that I am with you through it all. **D.S.**

Verse 3

3. Bless-ed are your poor, for the king - dom shall be
 theirs. Blest are you that weep and mourn, for
 one day you shall laugh. And if wick-ed tongues in -
 sult and hate you all be-cause of me,
 bless-ed, bless-ed are you! **D.S.**

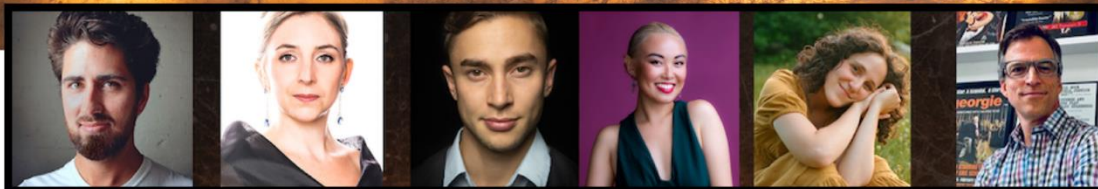
 **SPIRITUAL ROYALTIES FUND.** We at First Parish Lincoln acknowledge the history and significance of the African American Spirituals, traditionally called Negro Spirituals, sung in today's worship service. With respect and deep gratitude for the extraordinary musical contributions made to American music by Black people, we offer our thanks for the creators of these spirituals and their descendants. We agree that each time we sing the spiritual songs of enslaved Black people in our worship together as hymns or anthem arrangements, we will sing and hear them with open hearts honoring the unnamed musicians who created them, and we will pay royalties to organizations promoting the advancement of Black artists and musicians in America. We understand that the debt owed to Black musicians and artists can never be fully repaid. Through our words, our gifts, and our actions, we will forever strive to do what we can to end systemic racism in America.



Live in Lincoln Center presents
A Concert with Dramatic Reading of
Edgar Allan Poe's

The Cask of Amontillado

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 8PM



with Nightingale Ensemble singing
the music of Gesualdo
and David Elliott, narrator

First Parish in Lincoln
14 Bedford Road

Scan QR code
for tickets



COMMUNITY SUPPORT, PROCESSING, AND PRAYER

TODAY, November 10 • 11:30pm • Stearns Room

Sarah Klockowski, sarah@fplincoln.org

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT THE ELECTION

TODAY, November 10 • 5:00pm • Stearns Room

Rev. Kit Novotny & Lora Venesy, kit@fplincoln.org and lora@fplincoln.org

MEDITATION SANGHA

Tuesday, November 12 • 4:00pm • Stearns Room

Joan Kimball & Ben Wells, selenejck@gmail.com

FORESTS FOR OUR FUTURE

Tuesday, November 12 • 7:00pm • Stearns Room

KID'S MOVIE NIGHT!

Wednesday, November 13 • 5:30pm • Parish House

Family Connections Committee

POETRY GROUP

Wednesday, November 13 • 7:30pm • Stearns Room

Adam Bailey & Patrick Zweidler-McKay

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday, November 14 • 7:00pm • Parish House Auditorium

Miranda Loud, miranda@fplincoln.org

QUIET WALKS

Friday, November 15 • 1:30pm • Local Trails (Location in News Brief)

Andy Falender & Jackie Lentz

LIVE IN LINCOLN CENTER | THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO

Saturday, November 16 • 8:00pm • Parish House Auditorium

Miranda Loud, miranda@fplincoln.org

*Visit our website or sign up for weekly emails for program details and Zoom links.
www.fplincoln.org*



THE FORUM | A VISION OF FPL'S FUTURE

Sunday, November 17 • 11:30am • Stearns Room & Livestream

The Capital Campaign Team will present:

- Our shared vision for FPL: A home for spirituality, intergenerational community, and action for justice and the living earth
- Assessment of FPL's strengths and challenges in realizing that vision (how what we want maps onto what we have)
- The investments and capital improvements necessary to bring our vision to life
- Next steps / timeline for the Capital Campaign



COMMUNITY SING FOR HOPE AND SOLIDARITY

Monday, November 18 • 6:00pm • Rainbow Chairs

Join Miranda Loud for a gathering to build hope and solidarity for the coming days through community singing.



FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION | MARIAN ANDERSON: THE WHOLE WORLD IN HER HANDS

Wednesday, November 20 • 7:00pm • Zoom

This PBS documentary explores the life, career, art, and legacy of the African American contralto and civil rights pioneer in her own words using archival interview recordings that reveal her quiet genius and breathtaking voice and allows the viewer to explore history from her point of view. Best known for her concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1939, Anderson defined this revered landmark as a place of protest after she was discriminated against on the basis of a “whites only” concert policy at the Daughters of the American Revolution’s Concert Hall. Sponsored by the Racial Justice Advocates.



FALL RETREAT | BUILDING RESILIENCE IN COMMUNITY

Saturday, November 23 • 10:30am • Parish House

Join us for a day of spiritual grounding to unwind from a stressful November and prepare for the holiday season. Immerse yourself in yoga, mindfulness, and spiritual letter writing.

Values & Vision

NURTURING SPIRITUALITY

To be a spiritual home for individuals from diverse faith backgrounds where each person can find help and inspiration to foster personal growth on their own journey while in community with others.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

To be an open and inclusive community that learns to trust and work with each other as we celebrate, grieve, grow, support, and serve together.

PURSUING JUSTICE

To be a source of hope and positive impact in our communities, our region and beyond by affirming the dignity of all peoples and caring for the living earth.



Open & Welcoming

First Parish is an Open and Welcoming community church, affirming the dignity of all people. We welcome all persons to full participation and belonging regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, economic status, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Having fulfilled the requirements to be recognized as an Open and Affirming Congregation (UCC), First Parish is intentional about celebrating the presence and participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons in all aspects of congregational life, fully and without qualification.

Contact OandW-TF@fplincoln.org for more information.

FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

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Debby Adams (she/her)

Nursery Director