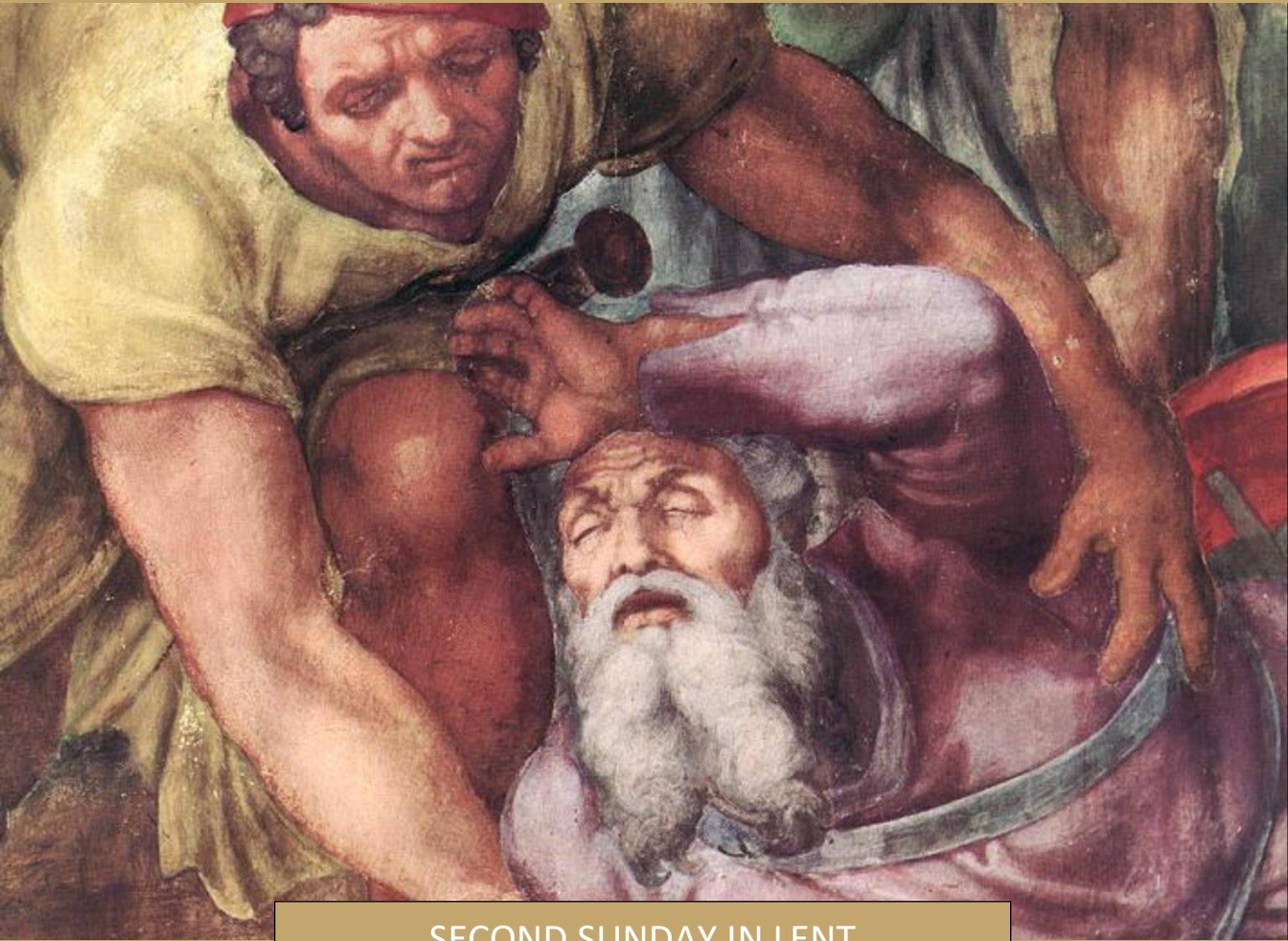


The First Parish in Lincoln

An open and welcoming church



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
"Always Converting"

Worship Theme | Turning Points

March 16, 2025 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 is available for babies & toddlers aged 0-5 on the lower level of the Parish House starting at 9:30am. Kids in grades K+ are gathering in the Parish House for Social Action Sunday. All ages will help make bagged lunches for CityReach, a Boston program for un-housed people. We will be writing notes of support & encouragement to our friends in CA who lost their churches in the recent wildfires. RE will end at 11:30 on transition to our parent meeting.

Cover Art. "The Conversion of Saul." Michelangelo. c. 1542-1545.

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

Lay Leader

Chris Hamilton

Hospitality

R.L. Smith

Mimsy Beckwith

Ushers

Barbara O'Neil

Carole Kasper

Nancy Donaldson

Nancy Henderson

Altar Flowers

Jennie Morris

Given in memory of her father,

William Spencer Morris

SUNDAY, March 16, 2025

TURNING POINTS

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

PRELUDE

Rigaudon from the Holberg Suite, Op. 40 No.1

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

RINGING OF THE BELLS

OPENING MEDITATION

Adagio from Sonata in E Major, BWV 1016

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Ed Wu, violin

WELCOME

Sarah Klockowski

***OPENING WORDS**

From enfleshed, adapted

One: When the world points us in the direction of despair,

Many: we gather and remember the Holy One.

One: Through faith, we proclaim the truths that have sustained generations:

Many: We believe that justice will come.

We believe that love can transform.

We believe that Spirit will make all things new.

One: In the company of this beloved community,

Many: let us press on and make it so.

***OPENING HYMN | Gray 126**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

COVENANT | In Unison

Chris Hamilton

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

The Right to Immigration Institute
Alejandro Bracamontes, Executive Director
Doug Smith, Legal Programs Director

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

SUNG RESPONSE

Sing for Justice

AR HYD Y NOS

Verse 1: All who want peace, sing for justice, join in the call!
Justice is love's public story open to all.
Harmony is born of difference, notes and chords of lived experience.
All who want peace, sing for justice, join in the call!

Verse 2: If you want peace, sing for justice, gather in song!
Here we join with friends and strangers, all may belong.
You who bring hope, fear, or sorrow, help us sing a new tomorrow.
If you want peace, sing for justice, gather in song!

FIRST READING

Rev. Nate Klug

From *Parable of the Sower* | Octavia Butler

All that you touch
You Change.
All that you Change
Changes you.
The only lasting truth
Is Change.
God
Is Change.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Chris Hamilton

PRAYER HYMN | Gray 205

Amazing Grace

AMAZING GRACE

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

The Ministers

PASTORAL PRAYER

Chris Hamilton

UNISON PRAYER

The Disciples' Prayer | enfleshed

Mother of us all, who dwells within and beyond, Sacred is your name.
May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.
May your dreams of justice, love, compassion,
and connection be enfleshed on earth.
Provide us today with what we need
to be nourished in body, soul, and heart.
Forgive us for the harm we cause
as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.
Lead us away from everything that destroys
and liberate us from the hands of evil.
For you are the ultimate source of hope.
Your power-with exceeds all power-over.
Your presence incites eternal wonder.
All praise to you, our comfort and strength. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sarabande from the Holberg Suite, Op. 40 No.1

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

***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

Shalom

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Ed Wu, violin

SECOND READING

Acts 9:1-19

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

SERMON

Always Converting

Sarah Klockowski

*CLOSING HYMN

Turning of the World

Ruth Pelham (b. 1949)

1. Let us sing this song for the **TURNING** of the world
That we may TURN as one
With every voice, with every song
We will move this world along
And our lives will feel the echo of our TURNING
With every voice, with every song
We will move this world along
With every voice, with every song
We will move this world along
And our lives will feel the echo of our TURNING
2. Let us sing this song for the **HEALING** of the world that we may heal as one
3. Let us sing this song for the **DREAMING** of the world that we may dream as one
4. Let us sing this song for the **LOVING** of the world that we may love as one

*OUR CALL TO MINISTRY | In Unison

Chris Hamilton

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

Sarah Klockowski

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Nada Te Turbe

Taizé words: St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Gavotte from the Holberg Suite, Op. 40 No.1

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

During the season of Lent, our postludes will be quiet and meditative. If you'd like to join the ministers for additional prayers of healing and support, make your way to one of the front pew boxes.

TIME FOR PRAYER AND SUPPORT

Rev. Kit Novotny

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.



PURSUING JUSTICE ACTION STEP. You are invited to join with others in advocating for the release of student activist Mahmoud Khalil, who was targeted for his political speech and advocacy for Palestinian freedom. Scan the QR code to learn more and email/call your representatives.






PARENT POTLUCK

MONDAY, MARCH 24 AT 7:30PM

Stearns Room



Please join the Family Connections Committee for a parent potluck on March 24th starting at 7:30 pm in the Stearns Room for an evening on mental health in children and teens. Panelists will facilitate a discussion about how to best talk to our children about a range of mental health issues and will share resources to support both parents and children. Scan QR code to sign up.

FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

www.fplincn.org



PARTAKERS PRISON MENTORING TRAINING

TODAY, March 16 • 11:30am • Parish House

PARENT INPUT SESSIONS | HELP US SHAPE RE!

TODAY, March 16 • 11:30am • Parish House

SIP TALK LEARN

TODAY, March 16 • 4:00pm • Stearns Room

MEDITATION SANGHA

Tuesday, March 18 • 4:00pm • Stearns Room

Joan Kimball & Ben Wells, selenejck@gmail.com

RJA FILM SCREENING | 'TIL KINGDOM COME

Tuesday, March 18 • 7:00pm • Zoom

Sarah Klockowski, sarah@fplincoln.org

PARENT INPUT SESSIONS | HELP US SHAPE RE!

Tuesday, March 18 • 7:30pm • Zoom

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday, March 20 • 7:00pm • Stearns Room

Miranda Loud, miranda@fplincoln.org

QUIET WALKS

Friday, March 21 • 1:30pm • Local Trails (Location in News Brief)

Andy Falender & Jackie Lenth

Visit our website or sign up for weekly emails for program details: www.fplincoln.org



THE FORUM | YOUTH REPORT ON CITYREACH TRIP

Sunday, March 23 • 11:30am • Stearns Room & Livestream

This year, 11 FPL teens and 3 adult chaperones participated in CityReach, an overnight program in Boston that teaches people about homelessness. Teens hear stories and tour parts of Boston frequented by this community. They get to know and work alongside currently homeless or formerly un-housed volunteers of CityReach, to serve lunch and distribute much needed items collected before the trip. Come hear participants of this year's trip talk about their experience, how it changed their views, and what they'll do next.



PARENT POTLUCK

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JOURNEY TO BELONGING

An offering for newcomers who want to deepen their connection at First Parish. Over a shared meal provided by FPL, we'll have the chance to:

- Reflect on own spiritual journeys
- Explore the history of First Parish, and the "big spiritual tent" of our UUA & UCC traditions
- Learn about the meaning and benefits of membership

We plan to hold two Journey to Belonging sessions this spring—one on a Wednesday night (with childcare) for younger families and single people (**March 26th from 5-7 pm**), and one after church on a Sunday (**March 30 at 11:30 am**). If you're interested in learning more, write to Kit (kit@fplincn.org) and Nate (nate@fplincn.org). Our next New Member Joining will be Sunday, April 13.

Values & Vision

NURTURING SPIRITUALITY

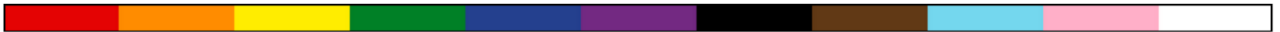
To be a spiritual home for individuals from diverse faith backgrounds where each person can find help and inspiration to foster personal growth on their own journey while in community with others.

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

(781) 259-8118 | www.fplincoln.org

Rev. Kit Novotny (she/her)

Co-Minister | kit@fplincoln.org

Sarah Klockowski (she/her)

Ministry Associate | sarah@fplincoln.org

Miranda Loud (she/her)

Music Director & Organist | miranda@fplincoln.org

Silvia Dieckow (she/her)

Parish Administrator | silvia@fplincoln.org

Rev. Nate Klug (he/him)

Co-Minister | nate@fplincoln.org

Lora Venesy (she/her)

Director of Religious Exploration | lora@fplincoln.org

Debby Adams (she/her)

Nursery Director

Chris Lehmann (he/him)

Audio/Visual Coordinator | chris@fplincoln.org