



FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

an open and welcoming community church



“An Echo in My Soul”

Worship Theme | Bless This Mess
September 21, 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.

Children's Program. Children ages 4+ are invited to the Parish House for RE at 10am. They will start with Sacred Circles before heading into programs for each age group.

Nursery: Babies and toddlers (ages 0-3) can be dropped off on the lower level of the Parish House starting at 9:30am with Debby, Orly & Ava.



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

Cover Art. *Desert Tunes*, 1977. Sliman Mansour.

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

Lay Leader

Judy Casarella

Hospitality

R.L. Smith
Mimsy Beckwith

Ushers

Tucker Smith
Nancy Donaldson
Caroline Smart
Barbara O'Neil

Altar Flowers

Rosemary Lloyd
*Given in gratitude for the gift
of community*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

BLESS THIS MESS

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

PRELUDE

Selections from Pièces de Clavecin, vol. 2

François Couperin (1668-1733)

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Sarah Klockowski

***OPENING WORDS**

From enfleshed

One: God meets us in our fear.

Many: They meet us in our messiness.

One: God does not ask us to be a self-improvement project;

Many: They are not tapping Their impatient toes,

waiting for us get it all together (whatever that means).

One: They know the way the world has broken our hearts.

Many: It breaks Theirs too.

One: Come, let us meet with the Brokenhearted God.

Many: For wide are the arms of Love.

***OPENING HYMN | Gray 126**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

***COVENANT | In Unison**

Judy Casarella

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 BUILDING COMMUNITY

Rosemary Lloyd and Sarah Andrysiak

Opening Doors Campaign

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

SUNG RESPONSE

Sing a New World into Being

ODE TO JOY

Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being. Sing as Love inspires your song!

FIRST READING

Rev. Nate Klug

“Tin Bucket” | Jenny George

The world is not simple.
Anyone will tell you.
But have you ever washed a person’s hair
over a tin bucket,
gently twisting the rope of it
to wring the water out?
At the end of everything,
dancers just use air as their material.
A voice keeps singing even
without an instrument.
You make your fingers into a comb.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Judy Casarella

PRAYER HYMN | Gray 391

Voice Still and Small

VOICE STILL AND SMALL

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Judy Casarella

UNISON PRAYER

From enfleshed

Weaver of Life, Ancient and Unfolding,
How sacred is your Presence!

We lean on your guidance. We seek your love.
We open to your transformation.
Provide us bread in body and spirit
to sustain us in faith and solidarity.
Companion us with grace
as we seek to live lives of forgiveness and compassion,
repair and accountability.
We remember those who have supported us as we seek to support others
in all the mess and glory of this human journey.
Guard our minds and hearts from the temptations of domination
and turn our loyalty away from all systems of evil.
For the whole cosmos hums with your wisdom.
Everything that lives, returns to your care.
Our thanks and honor to you,
Gracious Web of Existence, Our Source and our Home.

OFFERTORY

Les Baricades Mistérieuses

François Couperin (1668-1733)

***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.

***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

Ubi Caritas, opus 10, No. 1

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Where true charity and love dwell, God himself is there.
Since the love of Christ has joined us in one body,
Let us all rejoice and be glad now and always.
And as we hear and love the living God,
So let us in sincerity love all people.

SECOND READING

From Psalm 42-43

My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"
These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.
Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.
Deep calls to deep at the sound of your waterfalls;
all your waves and your billows have passed over me.
By day the Lord commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.
I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?"
As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"
O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.
Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.
Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

SERMON

An Echo in My Soul

Sarah Klockowski

*CLOSING HYMN | Gray 108

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

ENDLESS SONG

*OUR CALL TO MINISTRY | In Unison

Judy Casarella

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

As We Leave This Friendly Place

text: Stillman; music: Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Toccata no. 3 (12 pièces pour orgue)

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

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



Please recycle this program.

Bins are available in the narthex and Stearns Room.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ACTION STEP. You are invited to learn about and support the legislation currently before the MA State Legislature that would benefit Indigenous Peoples. There are currently five bills being considered in the 2025-2026 session that reflect the key concerns of local tribes. Scan the QR code to learn more about these bills and/or write your representative to express your support.



PURSuing JUSTICE ACTION STEP. Save the LUCE hotline number in your phone today! Think You SEE I.C.E. in your area? **CALL: 617-370-5023.** The hotline operates from 5am - 9pm every day of the week across multiple languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Haitian Creole, and more to be added! Volunteer for ICE watch + hotline. Trained volunteers hold shifts from 5a-9a, 9a-1p, 1p-5p and 5p-9p across multiple languages. Scan QR code to sign up.



THE FORUM | OPENING DOORS CAMPAIGN

TODAY, September 21 • After Service • Sanctuary & Livestream

RE PEN PAL PARTY

TODAY, September 21 • After Service • Parish House

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

TODAY, September 21 • 2:00pm • Parish House Auditorium

Open to all committee chairs, Parish Committee members, and Deacons.

DIG DEEPER

Monday, September 22 • 12:00pm • Twisted Tree Lincoln Station

With Sarah Klockowski (sarah@fplincn.org). Join an FPL minister to reflect on today's service.

MEDITATION SANGHA

Tuesday, September 23 • 4:00pm • Stearns Room

With Joan Kimball & Ben Wells (sangha@fplincn.org)

BEARING WITNESS AT ICE

Wednesday, September 24 • 10:30am • Parish House Parking Lot

Join the Racial Justice Advocates and staff as we carpool to the Burlington ICE facility to show solidarity with our immigrant members, friends, and neighbors.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday, September 25 • 4:30pm • Stearns Room

With Miranda Loud (miranda@fplincn.org)

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday, September 25 • 7:00pm • Stearns Room

With Miranda Loud (miranda@fplincn.org)

QUIET WALKS

Friday, September 26 • 1:30pm • Lincoln Trails

With Andy Falender & Jackie Lentz

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



OPENING DOORS FORUMS

Sunday, September 28 • 11:30am • Sanctuary & Livestream

In preparation for the September 29 Special Congregational Meeting to decide on the Opening Doors Campaign next steps, we'll share:

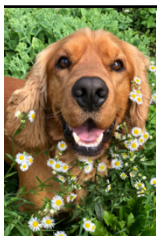
- Funds we need to raise to care for our buildings and grounds for the next decade
- Opportunities to improve the Parish House and grounds to better serve our community today and in the future
- How we could open our doors to justice
- Opportunities to green our building



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Monday, September 29 • 7:00pm • Sanctuary & Livestream

Special congregational meeting to review and affirm the proposed direction for Parish House renovations and Opening Doors Campaign. Sanctuary, 7pm. Livestream available; voting only in person.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Saturday, October 4 • 4:00pm • Parish House Lawn

All creatures great and small are invited for a brief blessing of the animals! This family-friendly service is open to the community. If your pet can't be there in person, bring a photo!



THE FORUM | IMMIGRATION: MEETING THE MOMENT

Sunday, October 5 • 11:30am • Sanctuary & Livestream

Join the Racial Justice Advocates for a conversation following up on our August 31st panel, and sign up for upcoming opportunities to be in solidarity with those targeted by ICE.

WITNESS: Presence & Protest

MUTUAL AID: Providing Resources

ADVOCACY: Changing the System

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@fplincn.org for more information.

FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

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