



FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

an open and welcoming community church



All Saints & All Souls Day
“How Do You Measure a Life?”

All Ages Order of Service
Worship Theme | Promises to Keep
November 2, 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. Children in grades 1+ are invited to remain in the sanctuary for our intergenerational service. Pre-K/K will begin at 10am in the Donaldson Room in the Parish House. Pre-K/K friends in the kids' choir will be walked up the hill by Natalie after the Time for All Ages to join RE.

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.

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

Lay Leaders

Rob Graves
Charlotte Graves

Hospitality

Diana Smith
Jennie Morris

Ushers

Sara Graves
Rosemary Lloyd
Heather Shapiro Malkov

Altar Flowers

Joan Campbell
*Given in gratitude for the hope
of a new season*

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

PRELUDE

Prelude on 'For All the Saints'
James Woodman (b. 1957)

The **prelude** is the piece of music that comes before the service to help us get settled in and ready for worship.

RINGING OF THE BELL

We ring the **bell** to signal the start of the service and to center our spirits. Here we go!

WELCOME

Rev. Nate Klug

Activity: Write one word from Nate's Welcome that you thought was especially important. What makes you feel welcome?

*OPENING WORDS

Adapted from Heather Janules

One: They once dwelled among us,
the people of memory.

**All: They who knew us, they who taught us,
They who hurt us, they who loved us.**

One: They touch our lives time and again,
Through their presence and their absence.

All: Through familiar scents, old stories, and favorite songs.

One: As the earth turns and leaves fall,
We reach back to renew the bonds between us.

**All: With hearts and hands open,
We remember those who have gone before,
We honor the circle of life and death,
And our place within this sacred thread.**



***OPENING HYMN | Gray 103**
For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

***COVENANT | In Unison**

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

Our **Covenant** is a promise we say out loud together each week. Rob and Charlotte Graves are leading this today. Say it out loud with them!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM

I Love the Mountains
American Trad.

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Sarah Klockowski

FIRST READING

From Revelation 7 (The Message)

Activity: Unscramble these Words found in today's Service!

- Hroten _____
- Beermmme _____
- Unutma _____
- Vole _____
- Dettaugir _____
- Vaseel _____
- Tissna _____
- Fiel _____

I saw a huge crowd, too huge to count. Everyone was there—all nations and tribes, all races and languages. And they were standing, dressed in white robes and waving palm branches, standing before the Throne and the Lamb and heartily singing.

...Then one of the Elders addressed me: "Who are these dressed in white robes, and where did they come from?" Taken aback, I said, "O Sir, I have no idea—but you must know."

Then he told me: "...The One on the Throne will pitch his tent there for them: no more hunger, no more thirst, no more scorching heat. The Lamb on the Throne will shepherd them, will lead them to spring waters of Life.

"And God will wipe every last tear from their eyes."

ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

Among the many beloved people we are remembering today, we lift up these members and friends of First Parish who have died since last All Souls Day.

Jack Pugh

Betty Smith

Activity: Write a small prayer for someone you'd like to remember. Dear God, Hear my prayer for _____. Something I wish for them is: _____
_____. I'll always remember this about them: _____.
May I always carry them in my heart and be grateful to have felt their love. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

Rob Graves

Prayer is a way to connect to your source of strength and hope, whether you call that God or something else. There are so many ways to pray! In church we pray together by singing, meditating in **silence**, speaking and listening. How do you like to pray? Sing along with our Prayer Hymn!

PRAYER HYMN | page 8

Leaning In: A Prayer of Intention

Christopher Grundy

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

The Ministers

This is a time when people share things that are troubling, stressful, or happy. It helps to know that others are praying and thinking about you. Is there anything you would like to be included in today's prayers? Feel free to raise your hand to say them out loud into the microphone.

Activity: If you don't want to say your prayer out loud, write out a prayer here!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rob and Charlotte Graves

INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING FOR THE SPIRITUAL ROYALTIES FUND

The entirety of our offering this morning will benefit Castle of our Skins, a Boston-based Black arts institution dedicated to fostering cultural curiosity and celebrating Black artistry through music. In classrooms, concert halls, and beyond, Castle of our Skins invites Black heritage and culture exploration, spotlighting both unsung and celebrated figures of past and present.

We at First Parish Lincoln acknowledge the history and significance of the African American Spirituals, traditionally called Negro Spirituals, sung in our worship services. 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.

OFFERTORY

Deep River

African American Spiritual
Regina Stroncek, soprano

Our **offering** is a chance to give generously to support our church community and those in need. While we pass the offering plates we get to listen to beautiful music.

*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.

A **doxology** is a short song of praise. We sing it after we collect the offering to show how thankful we are for all we've been given. Sing along!

*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

Seasons of Love (from Rent)
Jonathan Larson

SECOND READING

From "The Aims of Education" | Alfred North Whitehead

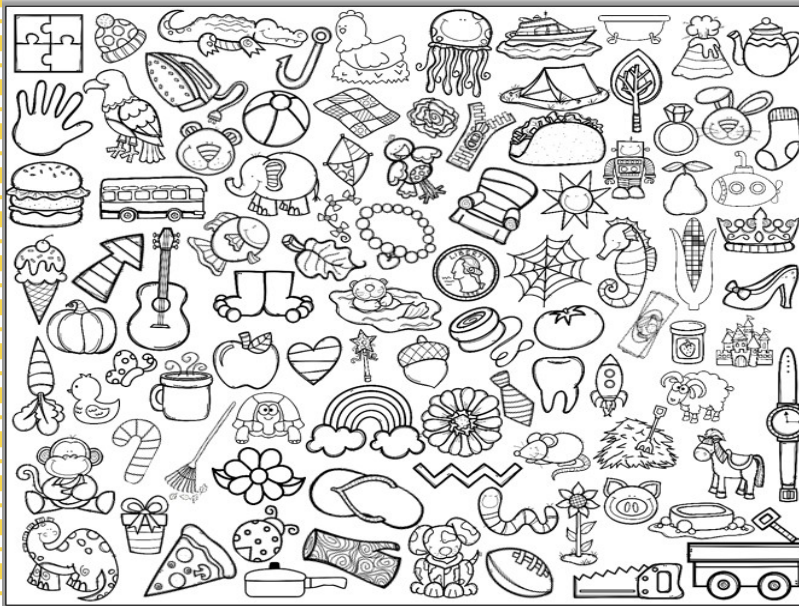
The present contains all that there is. It is holy ground...

The communion of saints is a great and inspiring assemblage, but it has only one possible hall of meeting, and that is, the present.

Activity: Things I see today...

- Candles
- Someone wearing gloves
- A baby
- Flowers
- Someone with black shoes
- A brightly colored tie
- A prism
- A brown purse
- A hat
- Someone wearing glasses

Read each word. Find the picture and color it in. Check off each word as you find it.



- leaf
- tree
- crow
- football
- apple
- hay
- rake
- corn
- pumpkin
- acorn

SERMON

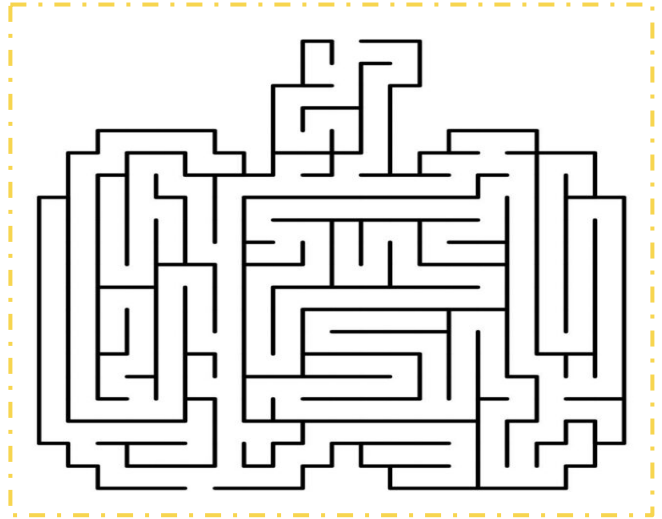
Rev. Nate Klug

How Do You Measure a Life?

The **Sermon** is a time in our service when we think deeply about some big questions.

Today Nate is reflecting on how our loved ones help us remember what really matters.

What really matters to you about your life?



*CLOSING HYMN

When the Saints Go Marching In

Oh, when the saints go marching in,
oh, when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the saints go marching in.

Oh, when the new world is revealed,
oh, when the new world is revealed,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the new world is revealed.

Oh, when they gather 'round the throne,
oh, when they gather 'round the throne,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when they gather 'round the throne.

*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

Rev. Nate Klug

The **benediction** is a last word of blessing that we can carry with us as we go live out our faith and values.

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

The **postlude** is the music that plays as we leave to help send us on our way. Have a great week!

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.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE seeks nominations for 2025-6 Preston Grants. Each year the Outreach Committee invites our fellow parishioners to nominate worthy small Boston-area nonprofits for the annual Jean Wood Preston Grants competition. Thanks to the late Ms. Preston's generosity, we can award several grants each year in the \$5000 - \$25,000 range. For a list of recent winners, see the Outreach section under the "Justice" tab of the FPL website. If you know of any well-run small organizations that you believe would benefit from a Preston grant, please contact to fplgiving@gmail.com by November 15.

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Saturday, November 8 from 10am-2:30pm
Stearns Room, 4 Bedford Road

MEN'S RETREAT

Finding Balance

Join Rev. Nate Klug and FPL leaders for a day of building community among men in the **late 30s-early 60s** age cohort. This fall, our theme for the day will be "Finding Balance." Amid busy work schedules, the demands of parenting and/or caring for aging parents, and a stressful world, how do we lead lives of equilibrium (and even joy)? What is a reasonable amount of balance to expect? We'll engage in some guided conversation, learn from one another in small groups, take a midday hike, and enjoy lunch from Verrill Farm. Friends, newcomers, and strangers welcome!



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER AND CHOOSE YOUR LUNCH OPTION!



WWW.FPLINCOLN.ORG/EVENTS

JOURNEY TO BELONGING

TODAY, November 2 • After Service • Parish House Library
With Rev. Kit Novotny

SACRED TEXTS

Tuesday, November 4 • 12:00pm • Zoom
With Sarah Klockowski (sarah@fplincoln.org)

MEDITATION SANGHA

Tuesday, November 4 • 4:00pm • Stearns Room
With Joan Kimball & Ben Wells (sangha@fplincoln.org)

MILESTONES | EXPLORING BAPTISM & DEDICATION

Wednesday, November 5 • 5:00pm • Parish House
With Rev. Kit Novotny, Rev. Nate Klug, and Lora Venesy

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday, November 6 • 4:30pm • Stearns Room
With Miranda Loud (miranda@fplincoln.org)

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday, November 6 • 7:00pm • Stearns Room
With Miranda Loud (miranda@fplincoln.org)

QUIET WALKS

Friday, November 7 • 1:30pm • Lincoln Trails
With Andy Falender & Jackie Lentz

MEN'S RETREAT | FINDING BALANCE

Saturday, November 8 • 10:00am • Stearns Room
With Rev. Nate Klug (nate@fplincoln.org)

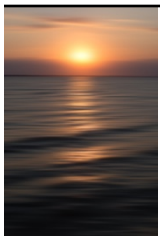
Visit our website or sign up for weekly emails for program details: www.fplincoln.org



THE FORUM | FILM SCREENING & Q&A “WOMEN OF TRUTH & COURAGE: THE WIDOWS OF KALANGARAI”

Sunday, November 9 • 11:30am • Sanctuary

For centuries, widowed and abandoned women in India have been treated as outcasts by Indian Society. They are among the poorest of the poor in India, especially if they are low-caste women. This documentary traces the footsteps of a widowed woman, Mrs. Manjula, who joins other widows in a movement to challenge cultural and social ostracism. Their stories of courage and hope in the face of adversity provide us with a vision of how women can be empowered to change their lives and society.



ATHEISTS & OTHER SEEKERS

Thursday, November 13 • 7:00pm • Garrison Room

Join us for the next gathering of those who identify as atheist, agnostic, or atheist-curious! We'll talk together about what we wish we had been taught about religion when we were younger. And we'll continue the conversation started in the Theology group, which meets on November 12, in considering “what does it mean to be a church?”



LIVE IN LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS: HANNEKE CASSEL WITH JENNA MOYNIHAN AND KEITH MURPHY

Sunday, November 16 • 4:00pm • Parish House

Join these electrifying musicians for a concert of joyous and moving fiddle tunes both traditional and modern.



WE GATHER TOGETHER POTLUCK

Sunday, November 23 • 11:00am • Parish House

The Welcoming Committee is happy to host the traditional We Gather Together Potluck following the New Member Signing on Sunday, November 23. Meet new members and share a community meal. All are welcome! **Potluck Assignments**, by the first letter of the last name: **A-E:** Vegetable, vegetarian or vegan dishes; **F-J:** Quiche or other egg dish; **K-O:** Salads (fruit or greens); **P-T:** Protein (meat or plant protein); **U-Z:** Grains (bread/butter, bagels/muffins/butters, pasta/rice)

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) and Welcoming Congregation (UUA), 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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