

United First Parish Church

Order of Service

As Unitarian Universalists we affirm pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

PRELUDE *Canzona* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME AND OPENING WORDS Rev. Rebecca Froom

CHALICE LIGHTING David Downs

*COVENANT

As a free fellowship of this historic church,
We unite to lift our hearts and open our minds to a larger reality;
To accept, support, and encourage one another;
To seek the wisdom in all religions;
To cherish and sustain the web of life;
And to strive for justice, compassion, and peace.

*GREET YOUR NEIGHBORS

*HYMN #1023 *Building Bridges*

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Rev. Rebecca Froom
We Need Not Think Alike to Love Alike

*CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL *As You Go* By John Ruben Piirainen

As you go, may joy surround you,
As you go, go in peace.
Know our love is with you always,
as you go, as you go
(Children are invited to leave for their Spirit Circle programs)

JOYS AND SORROWS

MEDITATION AND PRAYER Rev. Rebecca Froom

REFLECTIVE HYMN *Meditation on Breathing* By Sarah Dan
Jones

*Please Stand as you are able.

"Church of the Presidents"

Sunday, May 5, 2024

When I breathe in, I'll breathe in peace.
When I breathe out, I'll breathe out love.

READING

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *Mélodie* Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (1805-1847)

SERMON *The Gift of Pluralism* Rev. Rebecca Froom

*HYMN #1008 *When Our Heart is in a Holy Place*

OFFERING INVITATION

Donations can be placed in the offering plates or can be made online at www.ufpc.org.

OFFERTORY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

*EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE By Patricia Yates and Harold Brown
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

POSTLUDE *Fantasy* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Music Director: Norman Corey
Greeters: Jackie Rodriguez, Juan Ramos
Usher: Bill Westland, Marilyn Valencius
Social Hour: Leslie Simpson, Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller
Livestream: Karl DeBisschop
Flowers arranged by Claire Fitzmaurice, Pat Artis

Note, on Sunday morning our lower level is for Spirit Circle programs for children. We ask the adults to remain upstairs between 10:45-11:45 am, unless they have a need to use the restrooms.

Please join us for social hour in the parish hall following the worship service.

Childcare is provided.

ABOUT UNITED FIRST PARISH CHURCH (UFPC)

We are a Unitarian Universalist congregation where thoughtful and caring people from many faith backgrounds gather for spiritual growth and learning, to build community, and to live our values of love and compassion in the wider world. Here you will find companions for the journey. Bring your questions, your hopes, and your ideals.

Sunday worship is at 10:30 am in-person and over zoom, followed by an in-person social hour for continued conversation. Children participate in worship and in our Spirit Circle religious education program where they learn about mindfulness, the arts, and caring for the earth.

United First Parish Church has roots in two congregations who merged in 1958: First Parish Church founded in 1639 and Wollaston Unitarian Society founded in 1888. This magnificent building was designed by Alexander Parris; it is the fourth meeting house of the Church and was completed in 1828. John Adams and John Quincy Adams, the second and sixth Presidents of the United States, were life-long members of the Church and are entombed along with their wives First Ladies Abigail Adams and Louisa Catherine Adams in the Church's crypt. The church operates a History and Visitors Program from mid-April to mid-November, giving tours of the Presidential Crypt and our historic sanctuary.

UFPC provides a home for The Prison Book Program, a social justice literacy program in residence. You can learn more about them and their meaningful work at <https://prisonbookprogram.org>.

Elected Leaders: Fiona Sankey (President), Jacqueline Rodriguez (Vice-President), Clyde Cortright (Treasurer), Erwin Schaareman (Assistant Treasurer), Patricia Sullivan (Clerk), Karl DeBisschop (Stewardship), Claire Fitzmaurice (Social Justice Action), Jamie Grassmann (Communications), Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller (Congregational Life), Peter Kovach and Andrew Carleen (Religious Education), Ann Marie Willer (Committee on Ministry), Patricia Sullivan (Nominating Committee)

Staff: Rev. Rebecca Froom (Lead Minister), Rev. Dr. Sheldon Bennett (Minister Emeritus), Nan Moore (Affiliate Lay Community Minister and Director of Family Ministry), Shiloh Hoffman (Ministerial Intern), David Bousquin (Office and Property Manager), Norman Corey (Music Director)



United First Parish Church

Unitarian Universalist



“The Gift of Pluralism”

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