

# United First Parish Church

## Order of Service

You are invited to place photographs and mementos on our Table of Honor or “light” a candle in honor of a loved one before the service or during the opening hymn.

PRELUDE *America the Beautiful* Samuel Augustus Ward and Katherine Lee Bates, arr. Doug Hammer

WELCOME AND OPENING WORDS Ann Gillette Parsley

CHALICE LIGHTING Bill Westland

\*COVENANT John Sincak

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 John Sincak

\*HYMN #159 *This Is My Song*

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Ann Gillette Parsley  
*Honoring Fallen Soldiers*

TAPS

\*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 Ann Gillette Parsley

MEDITATION AND PRAYER Ann Gillette Parsley

HYMN #1023 *Building Bridges*

\*Please Stand as you are able.

# “Church of the Presidents”

Sunday, May 24, 2026

READING *In Memoriam* by Joan Parrott Skiba, RN Bonnie Gorman

RESPONSIVE READING Ann Gillette Parsley and John Sincak  
*The Young Dead Soldiers* by Archibald MacLeish

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *Pie Jesu* from *Requiem* Gabriel Fauré

REFLECTION *Rest In Peace* Ann Gillette Parsley

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER Ann Gillette Parsley

\*HYMN *America the Beautiful*

OFFERING INVITATION John Sincak  
Donations can be placed in the offering plates or can be made online at ufpc.org

OFFERTORY *Deep River* Robert J. Powell  
Based on *Deep River*, an African-American spiritual

ANNOUNCEMENTS John Sincak

BENEDICTION Ann Gillette Parsley

\*SUNG BENEDICTION By Patricia Yates and Harold Brown  
Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again.

POSTLUDE *The Souls of the Righteous* T. Tertius Noble

We invite you to join us for social hour following the service.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Organ and piano: Joe Stoddard

Worship Associate: John Sincak

Greeter: Paul Valencius

Ushers: Marilyn Valencius

Livestream: Noel Palatas

Flowers: Pat Artis, Claire Fitzmaurice, Allegra Taylor, Kate Hurley

Social Hour: Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller, Leslie Simpson

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: Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller (President), Jacqueline Rodriguez (Vice-President), Clyde Cortright (Treasurer), Erwin Schaareman (Assistant Treasurer), Ryan Ruel (Clerk), Karl DeBisschop and Peter Kovach (Stewardship), David Downs (Social Justice Action), Patricia Desmond (Communications), Nicole and Israel Smith (Congregational Life), Andrew Carleen (Religious Education), G. Frederick Shepard (Worship), David Fallon (Committee on Ministry), Sarah Belfort (Nominating Committee).

Staff: Rev. Rebecca Froom (Lead Minister), Rev. Dr. Sheldon Bennett (Minister Emeritus), Ann Parsley (Ministerial Intern), Nan Moore (Affiliate Lay Community Minister), Elizabeth Foster (Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry), David Bousquin (Office and Property Manager), Tony Winters (Acting Director of Music), Kendall Doty (Communications Coordinator).



# *United First Parish Church* Unitarian Universalist



## **“Rest in Peace: A Memorial Day Service”**

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[www.ufpc.org](http://www.ufpc.org)  
Reverend Rebecca Froom, Minister  
[minister@ufpc.org](mailto:minister@ufpc.org)