

Be careful how you live your life for it is the only Gospel others will read.
~ Helder Camara

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.

Weston, Massachusetts

Gathered in 1698

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome Back Sunday

September 13, 2020

PRELUDE: *Sonata No. 18 in G* Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Minister: Like the sun warms and feeds the earth 90 million miles away,

People: **Like the moons pulls waves and winds from far out in space,**

Minster: So we too, at the scale of individuals and a community
can foster and build connections at a distance.

As we gather here in person at the beginning of a new season,

People: **We recognize and celebrate the many ways we have supported each other and our community while being physically removed.**

Minister: This year is challenging and at times frustrating.
People are anxious and at times afraid.

People: **And yet churches like ours are finding ways to foster good will and connection from a distance, similar to the Sun and Moon. We are finding ways to reach out and make real Jesus' vision for the coming Kingdom of God, all at a distance.**

*HYMN (*see insert*) – “Morning has broken”

Minister: The Peace of God be with you.

People: **And Also with You.**

Minister: Let us pray.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

God of Life and Love, mysterious presence who is always with us, as we gather this day under a dome of leaves and blue sky, we give thanks for the bonds we share: with nature, with this community, and with you. In the days ahead, may we work to make the world a better and more peaceful place. Inspire us to be our best selves, even as we know that we often fall short of our hopes and expectations. May we, as people of faith, be granted the courage to be bold, active and loving. This we ask in the spirit of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying: Our Father . . .

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF THE REV. SARAH NAPOLINE, our new Assistant Minister of Families and Community Outreach

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

Glenn & Sue Brewster

READING: Matthew 5: 39-49 *On Retaliation and Loving Your Enemies*

SOLO: “Laudamus Te,” from *Mass in C Minor* (K 417) by W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Rose Hegele, soprano

SERMON: “Gathering, Hoping, and Serving” – Jeff Barz-Snell

MUSIC MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: “We Thy People Praise Thee” (*St. Anthony’s Carol*) by F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)
First Parish Virtual Choir

DOXOLOGY

**From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue!**

**Eternal are thy mercies Lord:
Eternal truth attends thy word;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.**

INVITATION

*CLOSING HYMN (*see insert*)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Sailors’ Song (Lyric Pieces)* *Edvard Grieg* (1843-1907)

We invite you to stay for a time of refreshment
and socially distanced fellowship after the service.

Minister:
Assist. Minister of Families & Community Outreach:
Organist:
Senior Choir Director:
Parish Administrator:
Sexton:
Fellowship Hour Coordinator:
AV Intern:

Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Rev. Sarah Napoline
Geoffrey Wieting
William C. Sano
Betsy Gibson
Alan Flynn
Paula Leger
Max Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- KNITTERS & STITCHERS** – Join us virtually on Zoom on Mondays at noon. To be added to the mailing list for login info, please contact Betsy Gibson in the Church Office.
- WEEKLY WEDNESDAY MORNING MEDITATION AT 8:30 AM** – Join us on Zoom; see the weekly e-Post newsletter or contact Church Office for sign-in information.
- COMING UP FOR FPCW BOOK GROUP** – On Thursday, Sept. 17, we'll meet on Zoom to discuss the timely *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. Then on Thursday, Oct. 22, we will deviate from our usual more current works and delve into Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* to see what parallels we might draw between 18th century England and France and today. Both gatherings will begin at 9:30 am. Newcomers are always welcome; if you'd like to be on the mailing list for Zoom log-in info, please contact Betsy Gibson the Church Office.
- OUTDOOR SCREENING AT FPCW** – Join us live and in person on Friday, 18, from 7:30 – 9:00 pm on the playground for a screening of *an episode of United Shades of America*. We'll watch an episode of this cable television series that follows comedian and political provocateur W. Kamau Bell as he explores communities across America to understand the unique challenges they face. We'll then have a break for some discussion and watch a 2nd episode if people would like to stay. We'll socially distance and provide individual packages of popcorn and canned soda. Bring a folding chair (and your own snacks if you prefer). Masks and contact tracing info will be required. Rain Date: Sept. 20 – same time, same place.
- SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE** – Will meet on Sunday, Sept. 20, at 1:00 pm via Zoom.
- OUTDOOR FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT AT FPCW** – Bring your family to the FPCW playground on Friday, Sept. 25, from 7:30 – 9:00 pm for another screening of a family-friendly film. Have a favorite? Let Jeff Barz-Snell know. We'll socially distance and provide individual packages of popcorn and canned soda. Bring a folding chair (and your own snacks if you prefer). Masks and contact tracing info will be required.
- WAYS TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY IN UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES** – We are looking for several people willing to participate remotely in upcoming services using video. This includes video-recorded readings and chalice lightings. Jeff Barz-Snell is working on putting together short videos to use during upcoming services and creating video "montages" of different speakers saying a reading, or even singing. If you are interested, feel free to reach out to Jeff or Betsy Gibson in the Church Office, or simply be on the look-out for upcoming opportunities.
- COMING UP ON SUNDAY, OCT. 3RD** – Save the date for a second outdoor worship service and blessing of the animals at 10:30 am before the weather turns colder. Bring your family and your pet to church – all our safety protocols will be in place to do our best to keep everyone healthy!