

Everything in nature is resurrection.
~ William Butler Yeats

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON
Weston, Massachusetts
www.firstparishweston.org
Gathered in 1698
Pentecost
Communion Sunday – May 23, 2021 AD

PRELUDE Two Two-Part Inventions Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

OPENING WORDS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN – “All Things Bright and Beautiful”
Gabrielle Barkidjija, hymn leader

Refrain: **All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.**

Refrain:

**The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.**

Refrain:

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer son,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.**

CHALICE LIGHTING

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

READING: Matthew 11

ANTHEM “O Rest in the Lord” from *Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn
Gabrielle Barkidjija, contralto (1809-1847)

HOMILY: “Signs of the Spirit” – Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell

OFFERTORY Prelude and Fughetta J.C. F. Fischer (1656-1746)
DOXOLOGY:

**Praise God for love we all may share.
Praise God for beauty everywhere.
Praise God for hope of good to be.
Praise God for truth that makes us free. Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION TABLE

Note: First Parish Weston has a practice of hospitality in all our rituals. If you would like to participate in our communion service, you are welcome to do so. You are also welcomed to come forward and simply receive a blessing. For those who wish to participate, we will be moving “clockwise” in a circle from your seats. Please approach “on the left” and receive the gift of bread first, and then move to the right table to receive the gift of wine, before returning to your seat.

Minister:

The prophet Jesus, who was born in Nazareth of Judea, and who was crucified and died outside the walls of the city of Jerusalem in a final witness to his faith, and in the hope of bringing closer that final harmony of all things with the Divine (which he called “the Kingdom of God”), left no written record of his preaching. His sayings were preserved among his followers and among the common people, and were finally written down in narrative versions of his life and message called Gospels.

From the Gospel according to Matthew we have these words:

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

We are not gathered here today because we have dared give up our life to live in faith, or because we ever willingly take up the crosses we bear in order to follow Jesus. We are here because his words and his example are an inspiration in the life we have chosen. Thus, like the millions of women and men who have preceded us, we find in remembering him an inducement to a greater sense of connectedness with All That Is, a feeling nearer akin to wholeness that we are often privileged to enjoy, and a renewed hope in the possibilities of a larger fellowship and a more caring community.

Let us join in saying together the prayer Jesus taught his followers, saying:

Our God/Our Father/Our Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. The kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All peoples through all time have considered with wonder and awe the mystery of life and growth, and have found symbols to express our reverence for the forces of life and ways to celebrate our dependence on the nurturing earth. Bread and wine are such symbols, and Communion a way of celebrating both the gifts we are given and the creativity we can bring to using them.

Jesus and his followers shared bread and wine at their last meal together, and for them those elements had the additional significance of being shared during Passover, a ritual time in which the liberation of the Hebrew people from bondage is commemorated.

Jesus used the bread and the wine as symbols of the liberation his own sacrifice would mean to those who understood it. He took bread, and he poured wine, and he said

“This do in remembrance of me.”

Let us break bread together and share the cup of wine in remembrance of Jesus, as he asked.

Let us remember also all those men and women who toil in all the many kinds of fields and vineyards, who labor and are heavy laden, and be reminded that these elements need to be for us symbols of liberation.

Let us remember that what we do here is a ritual act of sharing, and that in coming together to worship we join with our sisters and brothers of every race and religion, for we all seek meaning in the midst of mystery, we all find that which is worthy of our profoundest awe. We give it many names, but the sense that we are part of a far larger, an inconceivably vaster whole, is a feeling we share.

And in a moment of silent prayer or meditation, let each of us remember a personal and private sacred moment: **Amen.**

Distribution of the Elements:

Dear friends, the same night in which he was betrayed, we are told that Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: "This is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner, he also took a cup when he supped, saying, this is the new testament in my blood. This do ye, as oft as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

We invite you to come forward for the elements during the music meditation.

Unison Prayer in Closing:

Thanks be to thee, O God, for the way of grace and truth made known unto us in the life and death of our elder brother, Jesus of Nazareth. Make us to be one spirit with him and with all your true servants, as members of a mighty chorus of followers and seekers. Unite us in bonds of peace with one another. Unite us with the great host of the living and the dead who have sought to know and serve your will in this world. And send us forth to our appointed tasks with thanksgiving on our lips; with an awareness of the sacredness of the world around us; and with peace in our hearts for having found rest in thee. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Though I May Speak" (*see following page*)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Canzona in G Major

Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

Though I May Speak

(The Gift of Love)

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1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, our spir - its

gift to all in - spire, and have not love, my words are
 so my love pro - fess, but not be given by love with -
 long to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide ev - ery

vain, as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 in, the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 deed; by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

WORDS: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

MUSIC: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1971

GIFT OF LOVE
 LM

Hal Hopson's paraphrase of I Corinthians 13 and his setting of a traditional English tune have made this a well-loved hymn in a short twenty-five years.

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Senior Minister:
Asst. Minister for Family Ministries & Community Outreach:
Choir Director:
Organist:

Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Rev. Sarah Napoline
William C. Sano
Geoffrey Wieting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS: Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, you are welcome here at First Parish. If you are a first-time visitor and would like to receive the First Parish newsletter, please fill out the "Welcome" form in your pew rack and place it in the collection plate. We hope you will introduce yourself to the Minister and visit the Guest Table in the breezeway where Georgia Foote can provide you with a nametag and information about our church. We welcome you to enjoy an audiotape tour of the Church.

WE INVITE EVERYONE to a time of fellowship and refreshment near the entrance to the main Breezeway after the service.

KNITTERS & STITCHERS will meet in-person tomorrow at noon on the Memorial Garden patio or in the parlor depending on the weather. All are welcome to join us.

MAY BRISTOL LODGE SUPPER – Many volunteers still are needed to buy or cook food and help with preparations for our Bristol Lodge supper on Wednesday, May 26. The suggested main dish is Italian sausage, potatoes and peppers (recipe in Church St. vestibule or in this week's Parish Post), salad, cookies or bars and fruit. If you can help or need more information, contact Mary Menino (mary.menino@gmail.com or text 781-718-9464).

SIGN UP FOR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC – We will hold a slightly simplified in-person picnic on the playground after outdoor worship on Sunday, June 6. CAMP will provide sandwiches from Roche Brothers, water, lemonade, and fresh fruit. We invite you to bring a favorite salad or simple dessert if you'd like and help with set-up and clean-up is always welcome. This week's Parish Post has a link to EventBrite to sign up, so we know how much food to order; if you need to sign up without a computer, please call the Church Office (781.893.7798).

PEACE FLAGS – If you have not yet picked up a peace flag, there is a bin of them near the refreshment table today. Donations to the Peace Flag Project are not required but appreciated; checks should be payable to First Parish.

NEW EXHIBIT IN THE RINES GALLERY – The four artists who participated in our virtual exhibits this year graciously offered a few of their works for a vibrant combined show. We hope you'll take a few minutes to enjoy pieces from Chris Pullman, Paul Dudek, Katherine Richmond, and Katharine Langenberg before heading home today.

WESTON CARES FUND ENTERS PHASE 3 – Since April 2020, the Fund has raised nearly \$195K, with 60% going to non-profits and 40% to individuals and families. Starting May 25, all donations to the Fund will be allocated to individuals and families who often have nowhere else to turn for assistance. To donate, go to westoncaresfund.org