

*“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience;
we are spiritual beings having a human experience.”*

– attributed to Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.

ORDER OF SERVICE

February 26, 2023 A.D.

The First Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

Abide: A Hymn Medley
Hymn Medley

Amanda W. Smith
Kevin G. Pace

CALL TO WORSHIP – Elena Westbrook

One: In a world ravaged by violence, by hatred,
by conflicts that seem eternal and insoluble,
sometimes the only thing we can do is be still for a moment –

Many: **to remind ourselves what is real:
the sun that rose this morning, the dirt under our feet,
the air whispering in and out of our lungs.**

One: This hour, try just to be present in each moment as it unfolds.

Many: **Our simple attention is what makes these moments holy.**

* HYMN 487 – “Abide with Me” (*verses 1-4*)

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

One: The Peace of God be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

WELCOME

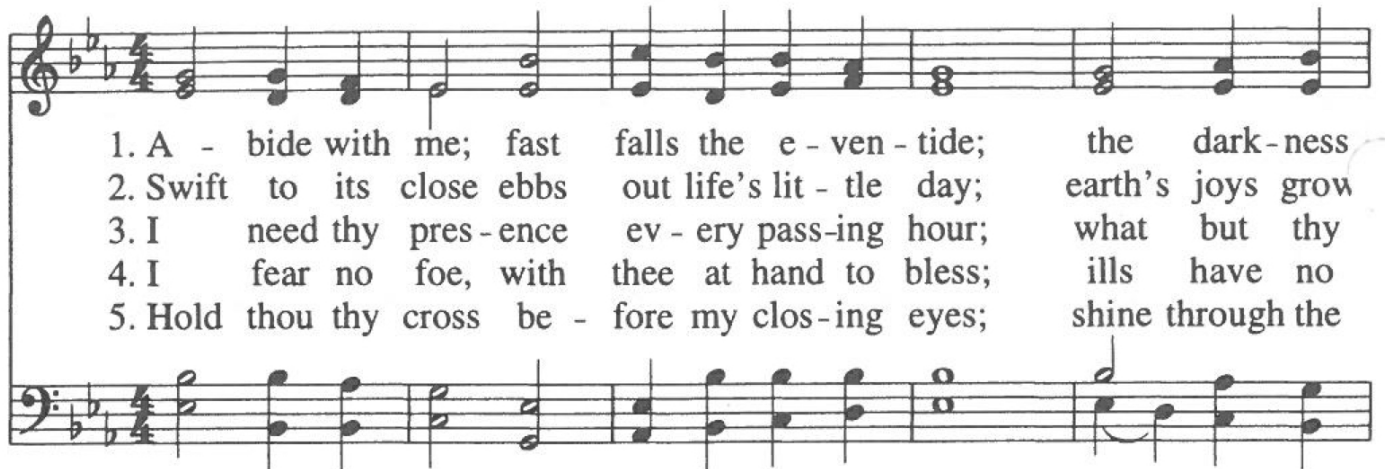
CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Source of Life and Love, we turn our minds and hearts again toward you. We confess that we have strayed from the path. We see how our fears have overtaken us and our prejudices blinded us. We forget your closeness. We forget that a spark of the divine already lives within us. Great Creator, awaken us to your presence in each and every moment. Help us be willing to receive the steadiness, courage, and strength you so generously provide. Grant that we may feel your wisdom guiding us along the journey of life. This we pray in the spirit of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our Father . . .

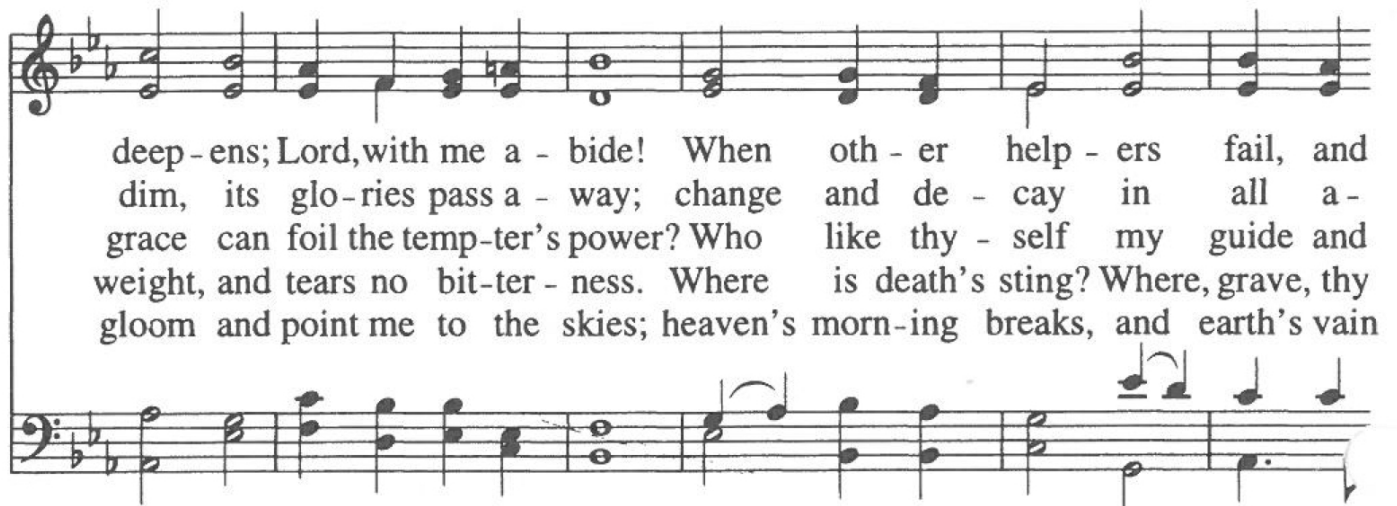
LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

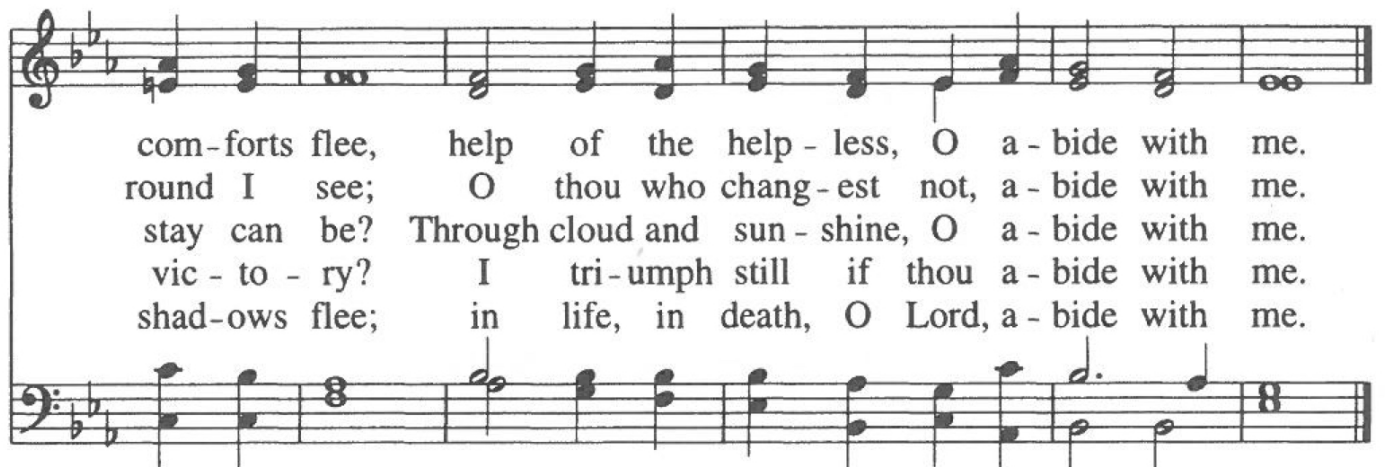
Abide with Me



1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide; the dark - ness
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; earth's joys grow
3. I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour; what but thy
4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no
5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes; shine through the



deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide! When oth - er help - ers fail, and
dim, its glo - ries pass a - way; change and de - cay in all a -
grace can foil the temp - ter's power? Who like thy - self my guide and
weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy
gloom and point me to the skies; heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain



com - forts flee, help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
round I see; O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
stay can be? Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
vic - to - ry? I tri - umph still if thou a - bide with me.
shad - ows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

WORDS: Henry F. Lyte, 1847, alt.
MUSIC: William H. Monk, 1861

EVENTIDE
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Written by a well-known English Anglican, this hymn was introduced to Americans in Congregationalist Henry Ward Beecher's hymnal *Plymouth Collection* in 1855. British Anglican William Henry Monk wrote the tune specifically for this hymn in 1861.

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I
 4. My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved and set me free! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779, alt.; St. 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790
 MUSIC: Shaw and Spilman's *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829; harm. FCC, 1997

NEW BRITAIN
 CM

John Newton, an English Anglican pastor, had been a captain of a slave ship until he experienced an 'awakening' in a storm at sea. At age forty he was ordained into the ministry of the Church of England.

Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX

First Parish Church has long welcomed people with different perspectives, backgrounds, and orientations. As a Welcoming Congregation, we happily invite all people as part of our 21st century community and church. If you are visiting, we hope you will check in at our welcome table, introduce yourself to the Minister and join us in the Parish Hall for some light refreshment.

STAFF

Minister:	Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Asst. Minister of Families & Community Outreach:	Rev. Sarah Napoline
Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator:	Robert Jones
Interim Choir Director:	TJ Rufo Curran
Organist:	Geoffrey Wieting
Choir Soloists:	Nathaniel Bear, Benjamin Doyle, Rose Hegele
Parish Administrator:	Betsy Gibson
Sexton:	Alan Flynn
Fellowship Coordinator:	Paula Leger
Video Production Staff:	Hussein Al-Massarani, Jonah Barz-Snell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE INVITE EVERYONE FOR A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP & REFRESHMENT in the Parish Hall after the service.

WEEKLY KNITTERS & STITCHERS meet on most Mondays at noon in the Parlor. If in doubt about the weather, please check with the Church Office.

METROWEST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS PRESENTS “BACK-UP POWER: BATTERY STORAGE FOR HOMES & BUSINESSES,” TUESDAY, FEB. 28, AT 7:00 PM ON ZOOM – Featuring an installation expert and several local case studies. Why are a growing number of people installing onsite batteries to work with their solar systems on their properties? Come find out. Register at www.metrowestclimatesolutions.org.

SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE, TUESDAY, FEB. 28 – We’ll hold a virtual meeting at 7:00 pm on Zoom. If anyone has questions about attending the meeting and/or receiving the minutes from the meeting, please contact the Church Office. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8826622251>; Meeting ID: 882 6622 2251

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY MORNING VIRTUAL MEDITATION, 8:30 AM.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89584018041> / Meeting ID: 895 8401 8041

WEEKLY THURSDAY CHOIR REHEARSAL – In the Sanctuary from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. Newcomers welcome!

COMMUNITY YOGA FLOW CLASS – Join Sarah Napoline on Friday, Mar. 3, at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall for an hour-long free class open to the public. Bring a mat, a bottle of water and a small hand towel for wiping your face/hands. If you have yoga blocks, stretching belts/straps, or other props, feel free to bring them (don’t worry if you don’t have any). And most importantly, bring an open mind and some patience! Just come as you are on the first and third Fridays of each month. Questions? Contact Sarah at sarahnapoline@FirstParishWeston.org.

THE ART COMMITTEE IS LOOKING TO EXPAND ITS RANKS. If you enjoy art and working on creative projects, join us! No artistic talent necessary but serving on the Committee is a great way for artists to share their skills and passion. We’re excited to resume a regular schedule of gallery and online shows and programming beginning this spring. If you would like to help us with this work or have any questions, contact Larry Grob (lagrob@mac.com) or Camille Schmidek (schmideks@comcast.net).

FPCW BOOK GROUP – Our next gathering will be Thursday, Mar. 16, at 9:30 am in person in the Library or via Zoom. This month’s book will be *The Swerve* by Steven Greenblatt. Zoom login:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81921953852>; Member ID: 8192 1953 852