

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, April 5, 2020

10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude

Kiss the Rain

Yiruma
Sanghee Kim, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Katy Weeks, Board President

Introit

Bright Morning Stars

Appalachian Folk Song
Michael Merrill and Quinci Sprague

Call to Worship

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

Ingrid Holcomb, Lay Minister

Hymn #112

Do You Hear?

Mike Pfitzer, voice

1. Do you hear, oh my friend, in the place where you stand,
through the sky, through the land, do you hear, do you hear?
In the heights, on the plain, in the vale, on the main,
in the sun, in the rain, do you hear, do you hear?
2. Through the roar, through the rush, through the throng, through the crush,
do you hear in the hush of your soul, of your soul?
Hear the cry fear won't still, hear the heart's call to will,
hear a sigh's startling trill in your soul, in your soul?
3. From the place where you stand to the outermost strand,
do you hear, oh my friend, do you hear, do you hear?
All the dreams, all the dares, all the sighs, all the prayers--
they are yours, mine, and theirs--do you hear, do you hear?

Sharing

Covenant and Affirmation

Love is the spirit of this church,
and service its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.

From all that dwell below the skies
let words of love and peace arise.
Let joyful songs of praise be sung,
through every land, by every tongue.

Message for All Ages

Michelle Coté,
Director of Religious Education

Joys and Sorrows

Ingrid Holcomb & Marcia Rising, Lay Ministers

Prayer or Meditation

Hymn #108

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

1. My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing!
2. What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.
What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love prevails in heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing!
3. When tyrants tremble as they hear the bells of freedom ringing,
when friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing!
To prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;
when friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing!

Exploring

Reading

Liberation

by adrienne maree brown
Susie O'Brien, Lay Minister

Introduction to Plate Sharing

Diane Miller

This month we share our weekly offering with RIA House.

Sharing Our Gifts

We Shall Be Known

MaMuse
Thrive Choir

We invite you to donate by text to (978) 310-3309;
or donate online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>

Donations and Pledge checks may also be mailed to the church at
353 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775 or placed in the church mailbox.

Sermon

Liberating the Spirit

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

Hymn #151

I Wish I Knew How

1. I wish I knew how it would feel to be free.
I wish I could break all these chains holding me.
I wish I could say all the things I could say,
Say 'em loud, say 'em clear for the whole world to hear.
Say 'em loud, say 'em clear for the whole world to hear.

2. I wish I could share all the love in my heart,
remove all the bars that still keep us apart.
I wish you could know what it means to be me,
then you'd see and agree everyone should be free.
Then you'd see, and agree everyone should be free.
3. I wish I could give all I'm longing to give.
I wish I could live like I'm longing to live.
I wish I could do all the things I can do,
though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.
Though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.
4. I wish I could be like a bird in the sky.
How sweet it would be if I found I could fly.
I'd soar to the sun and look down at the sea,
then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.
Then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.

Benediction

Sung Benediction

Peace be with you 'til we meet again!
As life lays its task before you,
keep love's banner floating o'er you.
Peace be with you 'till we meet again.

Postlude

Dancing at the Fair

Italian Folk Song
Sanghee Kim, piano



Those who are on Zoom may remain
for a virtual “coffee hour” following the postlude.
If you're in the “drive-in church”, honk and wave to each other!

Thank you to all those who helped with this service, especially our “Zoom Ushers” Kim and Karen Kinnear, and to our staff, board, and other leaders.



*First Parish is a Unitarian
Universalist Association Welcoming
Congregation. We warmly welcome
gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender
people into our community.*

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister
Michelle Cote, Director of Religious Education
Deedee Perkins, Parish Administrator
Dr. Mike Pfitzer, Director of Music
Sanghee Kim, Organist/Pianist
Joleen Trotta, Welcoming & Membership Coordinator
Whitney Granger, Sexton
Paul Spanagel, Youth Coordinator
Janet Beatrice, External Publicity

Katy Weeks, President
Sharon Brownfield, Vice President
Lee Coopriider, Treasurer
Liz Moseley, Clerk

On the web at fpc-stow-acton.org and on Facebook.