

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, April 12, 2020
10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude "Villanelle" from Les nuits d'été H. Berlioz
Caitlin Felsman, voice (accompaniment track by Uli Schauerte)

Welcome & Announcements Ann Sadler, Board of Trustees

Introit *Yonder Come Day* arr. C. Hardin
FPC Adult Choir

Call to Worship The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

Hymn #61 *Lo, the Earth Awakes Again* Mike Pfitzer, voice

1. Lo, the earth awakes again--Alleluia!
From the winter's bond and pain. Alleluia!
Bring we leaf and flower and spray--Alleluia!
to adorn this happy day. Alleluia!
2. Once again the word comes true, Alleluia!
All the earth shall be made new. Alleluia!
Now the dark, cold days are o'er, Alleluia!
Spring and gladness are before. Alleluia!
3. Change, then, mourning into praise, Alleluia!
And, for dirges, anthems raise. Alleluia!
How our spirits soar and sing, Alleluia!
How our hearts leap with the spring! Alleluia!

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

Marcia Rising and Hector Constantzos, Lay Ministers

Prayer or Meditation

Hymn #270

O Day of Light and Gladness

1. O day of light and gladness, of prophecy and song,
what thoughts within us waken, what hallowed mem'ries throng!
The soul's horizon widens, past, present, future blend;
and rises on our vision the life that has no end.
2. Earth feels the season's joyance; from mountain range to sea
the tides of life are flowing, fresh, manifold, and free.
In valley and on upland, by forest pathways dim,
all nature lifts in chorus the resurrection hymn.
3. O Dawn of life eternal, to thee our hearts up-raise
the Easter song of gladness, the Passover of praise.
Thine are the many mansions, the dead die not to thee,
who fillest from thy fullness time and eternity.

Exploring

Reading

"Untitled"

by Cecelia Kingman

Sharing Our Gifts

"Urlicht" from Symphony No. 2

G. Mahler

Caitlin Felsman, voice (accompaniment track by Uli Schauerte)

During the Offering, you are invited to participate in a "Virtual Egg Hunt."

This month we share our weekly offering with RIA House.

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.

Sermon

Surprised by Joy

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning

Hymn #203

All Creatures of the Earth and Sky

1. All creatures of the earth and sky,
come, kindred, lift your voices high, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

2. Swift rushing wind so wild and strong,
white clouds that sail in heav'n along, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Fair rising morn in praise rejoice,
high stars of evening find a voice: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
3. Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for all life to hear, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Dance, flame of fire, so strong and bright,
and bless us with your warmth and light: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
4. Embracing earth, you, day by day,
bring forth your blessings on our way,
Alleluia, Alleluia! All herbs and fruits that richly grow,
let them the glory also show: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Benediction

Community Singing

“Hallelujah” from Messiah

G.F. Handel

FPC Adult Choir & English National Opera



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,
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 Coopridner, Treasurer
Liz Moseley, Clerk

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