

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, December 13, 2020

10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude

Hanukkah Song Medley

arr. G. DeBenedetti
Sanghee Kim, organ

Welcome & Announcements

Ann Sadler

Call to Worship

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Chalice Lighting

Advent Candle Lighting

Hanukkah Sharing

Hymn #221

Light One Candle

1. Light one candle for the Maccabee children with thanks that their light didn't die.
Light one candle for the pain they endured when their right to exist was denied.
Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice justice and freedom demand.
But light one candle for the wisdom to know when the peacemaker's time is at hand.
(Chorus) Don't let the light go out, it's lasted for so many years.
Don't let the light go out, let it shine through our love and our tears.
2. Light one candle for the strength that we need to never become our own foe.
Light one candle for those who are suffering the pain we learned so long ago.
Light one candle for all we believe in, that anger won't tear us apart.
And light one candle to bring us together with peace as the song in our heart. (Chorus)
3. What is the mem'ry that's valued so highly we keep it alive in that flame?
What's the commitment to those who have died when we cry out they've not died in vain?
Have we come this far always believing that justice would somehow prevail?
This is the burden and this is the promise and this is why we will not fail. (Chorus)

Sharing

Covenant

Ken Langer

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.

Affirmation

Mike Pfitzer, Voice

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 AgesMichelle Coté,
Director of Religious Education**Joys and Sorrows**

Ingrid Holcomb, Lay Minister

Prayer or Meditation**Exploring****Sharing Our Gifts***May I Be Still*B. Tate
FPC Driveway Choir

This month we share our weekly offering with Concord Prison Outreach

Checks may be made to “First Parish Church” and sent to the Church at:

Pledges: attn: Pledge Secretary, PO Box 215, Stow MA 01775

Donations: attn: Treasurer, 353 Great Rd, Stow MA 01775

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

Sermon*Stillness of Winter*

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Returning**Hymn #55***Dark of Winter*

Mike Pfitzer, voice

1. Dark of winter, soft and still, your quiet calm surrounds me.
Let my thoughts go where they will; ease my mind profoundly.
And then my soul will sing a song, a blessed song of love eternal.
Gentle darkness, soft and still, bring your quiet to me.
2. Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly.
When my heart with sorrow cries, comfort and caress me.
And then my soul may hear a voice, a still, small voice of love eternal.
Darkness, when my fears arise, let your peace flow through me.

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*A Winter Story*Yiruma
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 our helpers today: Katy Weeks & Sharon Brownfield
and 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
Janet Beatrice, External Publicity

Katy Weeks, President
Sharon Brownfield, Vice President
Bill Froberg, Treasurer
Helen Ham, Clerk

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