

July 13, 2025
10:00 am

Gathering

Prelude "Nightingale " Quincy Sprague &
by Norah Jones Michael Merrill

Welcome & Announcements Johanna Pyle, Board Clerk,
Co-chair RJTF

Opening Words Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lloyd Fillion

Chalice Lighting Words by Melanie Davis

*** Hymn #121** "We'll Build a Land"

Centering

*** Covenant and Affirmation**

<i>(Spoken in unison)</i>	<i>(Sung in unison)</i>
Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.	From all that dwell below the skies Let words of love and peace arise
This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.	Let joyful songs of praise be sung, through every land, by every tongue.

Land Acknowledgement Andy Derr

Joys and Sorrows Hector Constantzos,
Lay Minister

Joys and Sorrows is a time for the things on our hearts and
minds to be heard by the gathered community. If you would
like a follow-up call by a lay minister or the minister, email
caring@fpc-stow-acton.org.

Meditation "Hopefulness in Bad Times" Jessica Batsford,
by Howard Zinn Co-chair RJTF

*** Hymn #1009** "Meditation on Breathing"

** Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Exploring

Sharing Our Gifts

In July and August we share our weekly offering with four
recipients, **UU Trauma Response Ministry, UU Mass Action,
Native Plant Trust, and Groton Hill Music Center.** You may
donate with a check made out to First Parish Church, online at
<https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text to (978) 310-3309.

Anthem "Higher Ground" Charles Hutchinson
Gabriel

Reading "Imagine" Sharon Webb
by James Michael Anderson

Sermon "Crime and Punishment vs. Harm and Healing"
Lloyd Fillion

Returning

*** Hymn #108** "My Life Flows On"

*** Benediction**

*** Closing Song**

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 'til we meet again.

Postlude "I Shall be Released" Quincy Sprague &
by Bob Dylan Michael Merrill

**We invite you to remain in the Sanctuary following the service
for further discussion with our guest speaker about the work
with the MA legislature to abolish Life without Parole.**

Thank you

Sharon Brownfield, Zoom Host
Joe Stadolnik, Tech Support
Trish Woods, Accompanist
Quincy Sprague, Michael Merrill, Musicians,
Ingrid Holcomb, Marcia Allison, Ushers
Our staff and leadership

To our visitors, thank you for coming!

We hope you find what you're looking for and that you'll return. Here's how to keep connecting with our people and programs:

- Fill out a Visitor Card in your pew or online (QR code)
- Visit our website, www.fpc-stow-acton.org. There is so much happening at FPC! Our homepage and the "Church Life" tab detail our events and programs.
- Subscribe to our e-newsletters and email groups (QR Code)



Visitor Card



E-Newsletters

July/August Plate Sharing

- **UU Trauma Response Ministry** Provides culturally sensitive spiritual care to congregations after critical and traumatic events.
- **UU Mass Action** Organizes and mobilizes UUs in Massachusetts to confront oppression.
- **Native Plant Trust** Conserves and promotes New England's native plants to ensure healthy, biologically diverse landscapes.
- **Groton Hill Music Center** A community music school and performing arts venue hosting lessons, lectures, concerts, and recitals.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, July 13, 2025



The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister
Rayla Baldwin-Mattson, Director of Religious Education
Meg Rivers-Wright, Parish Administration & Membership
Chris Hossfeld, Music Director
Trevor Berens, Accompanist
Justin Marble, Nursery Care Coordinator
Mike Silkonis, Sexton
Brendon Chetwynd, President,
Trisha Guditiz, Vice President
Bill Froberg, Treasurer
Johanna Pyle, Clerk

First Parish is a UU Association Welcoming Congregation. We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgender people into our community.

Large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher.
Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the Sanctuary.

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church.
In the Sanctuary, back rows with accessible seating are "mask-required."

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