

The pursuit of truth shall set you free – even if you never catch up with it.
~ Clarence Darrow

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.

Weston, Massachusetts

Gathered in 1698

ORDER OF SERVICE

October 25, 2020

21st Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday Before All Hallows Eve

PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

*HYMN: “When Morning Gilds the Skies” (*Laudes Domini*)

**When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,
Thy name, O God, be praised! Alike at work and prayer,
On thee I cast my care: Thy name, O God be praised!**

**Let earth’s wide circle round In joyful notes resound;
Thy name, O God, be praised! Let earth and sea and sky,
From depth to height reply, Thy name, O God, be praised!
Be this, while life is mine, My canticle divine,
Thy name, O God, be praised! Be This the eternal song
Through all the ages long, Thy name, O God, be praised!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Choose to bless the world!

People: **The choice to bless the world is more than an act of will,
a moving forward into the world with the intention to do good.**

Minister: It is an act of recognition, a confession of surprise.
It is a grateful acknowledgment that in the midst of a broken world,
unspeakable beauty, grace and mystery abide.

People: **There is an embrace of kindness that encompasses all life,
including ours.**

Minister None of us alone can save the world.

People: **Together—that is another possibility, waiting.**

Minister: The Peace of God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Let us greet one another in peace.

*Please rise in body or spirit

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER, FOLLOWED BY THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of Mystery and Love, who subtly lives amidst our lives in moments of insight and inspiration, as we gather this day under a dome of leaves and blue sky, we give thanks for the bonds we share: with nature, with this community, and with you. In the days ahead, may we work to make the world a better and more peaceful place. Inspire us to be our best selves, even as we know that we often fall short of our hopes and expectations. May we, as people of faith, be granted the courage to be bold, active and loving. This we ask in the spirit of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying:

**Our Father, who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses as we
Forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.
Forever and ever. Amen.**

CHALICE LIGHTING: Jim Dana

TIME FOR ALL AGES: Rev. Sarah Napoline

SOLO: "In Native Worth" from the oratorio *Creation* by Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)
Benjamin Doyle, tenor; Geoff Wieting, piano

READING: Psalm 118: 1, 5-14

MUSIC MEDITATION

SERMON: "Scaring Up Hope," Jeff Barz-Snell

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: "A Rose Touched by the Sun's Warm Rays" by Jean Berger (1909-2002)
First Parish Virtual Choir

DOXOLOGY

**From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue!**

**Eternal are thy mercies Lord:
Eternal truth attends thy word;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.**

INVITATION

CLOSING HYMN: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

We invite you stay for our Harvest Fest and "Trunk or Treat" following the service.
Enjoy hot beverages and cider donuts, Halloween treats, games and music!

Minister:	Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Asst. Minister for Families & Community Outreach:	Rev. Sarah Napoline
Organist:	Geoffrey Wieting
Choir Director:	William C. Sano
Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator:	Robert Jones
Fellowship Hour Coordinator:	Paula Leger
Sexton:	Alan Flynn
Parish Administrator:	Betsy Gibson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KNITTERS & STITCHERS will meet on Monday, Oct. 26th, for our weekly gathering at noon on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87947600098>; Meeting ID: 879 4760 0098

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEDITATION will meet Oct. 7, on Zoom at 8:30 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82332140993>; Meeting ID: 823 3214 0993

OCTOBER BRISTOL LODGE SUPPER, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28 – Our next Bristol Lodge dinner will be on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Given that fall is easing into New England, our menu will have an autumn theme. So we will serve ham, butternut squash with apples and cranberries, peas and apple/pumpkin muffins. If you would like to donate a spiral-cut ham or frozen peas or make the butternut squash dish or the muffins), please email Mary Menino (mary.menino@gmail.com) or text her (781.718.9464). Copies of the squash and muffin recipes, and disposable pans, are on the table just inside the main Breezeway doors.

ALL SAINTS, ALL SOULS SUNDAY WORSHIP – We will celebrate the lives of loved ones no longer with us with Jeff and Sarah lighting candles in their memory. If you would like the name of a loved one read, please contact Jeff (jeffbarzsnell@firstparishweston.org) or Betsy Gibson (betsygibson@firstparishweston.org).

SENIOR MEN'S LUNCH will gather next on Tuesday, Nov. 3, at noon on Zoom (please don't forget to vote!)

<https://usma.zoom.us/j/96329830871>; Meeting ID: 963 2983 0871

CHAT AND PODCAST WITH THE PASTOR - Starting Thursday, Nov. 5 at 4 pm. Join Jeff Barz-Snell for a weekly online virtual drop-in with the Minister and an opportunity to discuss this fall's recommended podcast, *Seeing White*. Meeting each week at "tea-time," Jeff will host a Zoom-based chat to check-in and discuss an episode of this award-winning podcast. Listening to the podcast in advance (<http://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/>) is an invitation, not a requirement. Jeff will be always be prepared to discuss the series if people would like. For more information on the schedule of episodes, see the church's website. Note: if you are new to podcasts and would like some help on how best to stream or listen to episodes on your phone or computer, feel free to reach out to Jeff or Sarah. We are happy to assist. Be advised: once you start getting the hang of podcasts, you may never go back to simply using TV or radio.

FPCW BOOK GROUP will meet next on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 9:30 am on Zoom when they will discuss Robert Reich's *The Common Good*. Then, on December 27, we'll delve into Dick Masland's last published book *We Know It When We See It*, which was published soon after his death last December. Newcomers are always welcome; if you'd like to be on the mailing list for Zoom log-in information, please contact Betsy Gibson in the Church Office (781.893.7798).

2020 INGATHERING FOR WESTON COUNCIL ON AGING (COA) FOOD PANTRY – There is a list of desired items on the table in the Breezeway or in the latest issue of the e-Parish Post. When shopping in the next few weeks, please keep them in mind. We will make a display of donated items on the altar for the streamed Sunday worship service on November 22.