

The purpose of life is a life of purpose.
– Robert Byrne

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.
Weston, Massachusetts
Gathered in 1698
ORDER OF SERVICE for STREAMED WORSHIP
January 3, 2021 A.D.
Epiphany Sunday

PRELUDE: “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” – three settings
- Ernst Friedrich Richter (1808-1879)
- Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780)
- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND GREETING

HYMN: “All Beautiful the March of Days”

**All beautiful the march of days, as seasons come and go;
the hand that shaped the rose has formed the crystal of the snow,
has sent the silvery frost of heav’n, the flowing waters sealed,
and laid a silent liveliness on hill and wood and field.**

**O’er white expanses sparking pure the radiant morns unfold;
the solemn splendors of the night burn brightly through the cold.
Life mounts in every pulsing vein, love deepens ’round the hearth,
and clearer sounds the angel hymn, “Good will to all on earth.”**

**O God, from whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,
yourself the splendid vision seen in crystal and in rose,
the passing days with grace declare, and passing night proclaim,
in everchanging words of light, the wonder of your name.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE: Gordon & Sylvia Whitman

VIRTUAL EXCHANGE OF PEACE

READING: Matthew 2: 1-12 *The Visit of the Wise Men*

TIME FOR ALL AGES

ANTHEM: “The Kings” by Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)
Benjamin Doyle, tenor; Geoff Wieting, organ

SERMON: “Following Stars” – Jeff Barz-Snell

MUSIC MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER, FOLLOWED BY THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 and the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY: "Lo, How a Rose e're blooming" – 16th century German carol
First Parish Virtual *A Capella* 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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Sonata No.2 – II Allegro maestoso e vivace by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Minister:	Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Asst. Minister of Families & Community Outreach:	Rev. Sarah Napoline
Organist:	Geoffrey Wieting
Choir Director:	William C. Sano
Parish Administrator:	Betsy Gibson
Sexton:	Alan Flynn
Video Production Staff:	Jacob Barz-Snell
	Jonah Barz-Snell
	Max Hall
	Laurel Kulow

First Parish Church has long welcomed people with different perspectives, backgrounds and orientations. While we currently pursue formally becoming a Welcoming Congregation, we happily welcome all people as part of our 21st century community and church.

We invite you to join us on Zoom
for a time of fellowship following the service.
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91505972231>
Meeting ID: 915 0597 2231

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KNITTERS & STITCHERS – Join us virtually on Zoom on Mondays at noon.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86829200151>; Meeting ID: 868 2920 0151

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY MORNING MEDITATION AT 8:30 AM – Join us on Zoom; go to:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83090765817>; Meeting ID: 8309 0765 817
(PLEASE NOTE: This is a new login that should remain in effect until the end of June.)

PASTOR'S CHAT & PODCAST DISCUSSION – Thursday, Jan. 7, at 4:00 pm. Join Jeff on Zoom:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95816202845>; Meeting ID: 9581 6202 845

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING – **Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7:30 pm** on Zoom:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95027452186>; Meeting ID: 950 2745 2186

FPCW BOOK GROUP – Join us on Zoom on **Thursday, Jan. 21, at 9:30 am** for a
discussion of *Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey.

February 18 – *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

March 18 – *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson

April 15 – *The Wright Brothers* by David McCollough