

Now there is music from which a person can learn something.

~ Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(on hearing Bach's motets in the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig where Bach spent most of his career.)

Music is an agreeable harmony for the honor of God and the permissible delights of the soul.

~Johann Sebastian Bach

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.

Weston, Massachusetts

Gathered in 1698

ORDER OF SERVICE for STREAMED WORSHIP

March 21, 2021 A.D. at 10:30 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent / The first day of Spring!

The 336th birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach

March 21, 1685 – July 28, 1750

Join us for our Sunday Service at 10:30 am on Vimeo.com:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8015409>

or go to:

<https://firstparishweston.org/online-worship>

We invite everyone to join us for:

a time of fellowship at 11:30 am,

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/98603358957>

Meeting ID: 986 0335 8957

PRELUDE: "Toccata," from the *Toccata and Fugue in D minor* – Geoffrey Wieting, organ

OPENING WORDS

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

HYMN: "We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness" (verses 1-2) – TJ Rufo-Curran, hymn leader

We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and for your healing touch;
too long have we felt helpless; our burdens seemed too much.
Forgetting all pretenses we make our pleadings heard,
in hope and expectation await your gracious word.

We long to have companions who travel by our side,
strong friends to call and answer with whom we are allied;
as we lift up each other when struggles lay us low,
community will flourish; our faith and caring grow.

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE: Ian and Sally Jarrett

VIRTUAL EXCHANGE OF PEACE

- SOLO: "Mache dich mein Herz rein" BWV 244 from St. Matthew Passion
Christopher Humbert, Jr., baritone
- DUET ARIA: "Wir eilen mit schwachen, doch" ("We come with hastening footsteps";
No.2 from Cantata no. 78 "Jesu, der du meine Seele" BWV 78
Rose Hegele, soprano, and Gabrielle Barkidjija, alto
- CHORUS: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," from Cantata no. 147
First Parish Virtual Choir; Geoffrey Wieting, organ
- SOLO: "Prelude" from the First Cello Suite , BWV 1007 (transcribed by Catherine Liddell)
Catherine Liddell, lute
- CHOIR: Cantata no 4: *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (Christ lay in the bonds of Death)
Verse II: "Den Tod niemand sängen kunnt" – Women's Chorus
Verse V: "Hier ist das rechte Osterlamm" – Men's Chorus
Verse VII: "Wir essen und wir leben wohl"

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER – featuring a different version for each week of Lent. This week's version is unattributed.

**God, lover of us all, most holy one.
Help us to respond to you,
to create what you want for us here on earth.
Give us today enough for our needs.
Forgive our weak and deliberate offences,
just as we must forgive others when they hurt us.
Help us to resist evil and to do what is good.
For we are yours, endowed with your power
to make your world whole. Amen.**

HYMN: "We Year, O Christ for Wholeness" (verse 3) – TJ Rufo-Curran, hymn leader

**We need your living presence, O Christ of Galilee,
a presence that revives us and sets our spirits free.
No longer are we fearful, your love pervades each place.
Empower us with courage to claim your healing grace.**

INVITATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Fugue," from the *Toccata and Fugue in D minor* – Geoffrey Wieting, organ

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.

PROGRAM NOTES for
BACH BIRTHDAY BASH
March 21, 2021

The Toccata and Fugue in d minor (BWV 565) is considered the pinnacle of Bach's organ output. One very musical member of our congregation describes it as "As close to Heaven on earth as you can get." It was popularized in the Walt Disney movie "Fantasia." Today the piece is maliciously divided into two sections, using the "Toccata" for the prelude and the "Fugue" for the postlude. Kudos to Geoff Wieting, organist at FPCW.

The opening hymn tune was written by Hans Leo Hassler in 1601 but harmonized by JSB in 1719. It is appropriate during the Lenten season.

The opening solo from Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* oratorio is sung skillfully and thoughtfully by our new baritone section leader Christopher Humbert, Jr., whom we have never met in person. He is contributing virtually from his home in Columbus, Ohio, while pursuing a M.M. degree in opera performance at Boston Conservatory of Music. (Such are the wonders of today's Internet world.)

The Duet Aria: "Wir eilen mit schwachen, doch" was performed at FPCW on Sunday, March 7. It was so appreciated that the music director chose to repeat it. Rose Hegele, soprano, is employed by Berklee School of Music and sings professionally in the Boston area. She comes from Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Gabrielle Barkidjija, alto, is pursuing an advanced degree in voice from Boston University. She is a native of Chicago.

The Chorus: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" was originally an aria for solo soprano voice from Bach's cantata 147 "Heart and Mouth and Deed and Life", composed by Johann Sebastian Bach in 1723. It has been set with different instrumentation and vocal rendition for every occasion imaginable. Take it for what it is worth!

Catherine Liddell, lute, is a newcomer to FPCW, and a very welcome addition. She plays her own transcription of the First Cello Suite of JSB on her very beautiful lute, a long-necked instrument popular during the Renaissance and baroque periods in Europe. Its history can be traced back as far as 2000 BC.

Cantata no 4: *Christ lag in Todesbanden. (Christ lay in the bonds of Death)* consists of seven movements based on the Passion Chorale. As its length is close to 40 minutes, the Virtual Senior Choir is performing only three of them today, giving the women of the choir and the men chances to shine. This is the most difficult work we have done virtually since we began last spring. Congrats to the FPC Virtual Chorus

STAFF

Minister:	Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Asst. Minister of Families & Community Outreach:	Rev. Sarah Napoline
Choir Director:	William C. Sano
Organist:	Geoffrey Wieting
Choir Soloists:	Benjamin Doyle, Rose Hegele, Christopher Humbert, TJ Rufo-Curran
Parish Administrator:	Betsy Gibson
Sexton:	Alan Flynn
Video Production Staff:	Jacob Barz-Snell, Jonah Barz-Snell, Max Hall, Laurel Kulow

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO THE FIRST PARISH MUSIC AND AV STAFF AND THE CHOIR for their hard work and willingness to learn new technologies in order to uphold the tradition of offering music as ministry to our congregation despite the limitations imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic! We also thank Catherine Liddell for her ministry of music with her lute today.

YOUTH BONFIRE – Originally scheduled for today, the bonfire has been postponed to next Sunday, Mar. 28, from 4:30 – 6:00 pm at the church's fire pit. The Online Board Game gathering originally to happen on March 28th will be rescheduled – date to be announced. **Contact Robert Jones** for more information.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday, March 22. Betsy will be back on Tuesday.

FIRST PARISH COMMUNITY PROGRAM WITH ROBERT KUTTNER LAST SUNDAY is available to watch at your convenience on YouTube: **<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqJznbcDg9o&t=239s>**

EASTER IS APRIL 4, and the Flower Committee invites you to order a **memorial plant** to remember a loved one and beautify the altar. The service will be taped on Saturday morning, April 3, so if you would like to pick up your plant the day before Easter, the breezeway will be unlocked in the afternoon from 2:00-3:00. Checks should be made out to First Parish Church in Weston (Memo – Flower Fund). Send your check and dedication to Lynn Taff, 370 Glen Rd., Weston.....and please specify your choice of plant and color (hydrangeas, tulips, daffodils) (Easter lilies can be ordered but cannot be placed on the altar). Questions? Contact Lynn (**LRT.1@comcast.net**).

KNITTERS & STITCHERS – Join us virtually on Zoom on Mondays at noon. Please note that, for the March 22nd gathering, Zoom login information will be provided by Ginny Redpath, who will host in Betsy Gibson's absence.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH, WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP HOUR GUESTS – On Palm Sunday, we will welcome the Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo back to First Parish as our guest preacher. Jim is Interim Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury, MA and Instructor in Theology at Boston College, as well as Jeff Barz-Snell's college roommate. Prior to his return to the United States in Fall 2018, he was Lecturer in Theology at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, England, the largest seminary in the Church of England. He was also a member of the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Oxford and completed his DPhil (PhD) in Theology at Oxford in 2017. A native of Boston, Jim was ordained a minister in the United Church of Christ in 2005.

Then, at 11:45 AM, Meck Groot, one of the Congregational Consultants for the New England Region of the UUA, will join us for Fellowship Hour on Zoom and provide us with a 30-minute update on Region Programs and Trends. Participants will be able to ask questions and discuss the resources and opportunities available to us via our regional membership. The New England Regional staff encourages and supports congregations to take a deep interest in each other; to consider best practices together; to model spiritual leadership with one another; and to share their stories of doubt, risk and transformation. This program is part of an occasional speaker series sponsored by the Denominational Affairs Cmt featuring staff from UUA and our regional district (the NE Region) speaking on issues of interest to our congregation.

FPCW BOOK GROUP – After our March gathering, we made some more book choices for upcoming months. Hope you will be able to join us at 9:30 am on Zoom!

- April 15 – *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson (**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82082768882>**)
- May 13 – *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins (Please note: we will have a new Zoom link for May and June.)
- June 10 – *In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick

We also plan to discuss *Code Breaker* by Walter Isaacson at our September discussion (date to be determined). The book currently has a long waitlist at the Weston Public Library so we wanted to give people plenty of time to try to obtain and read.