

A thankful heart is the parent of all virtues.
– Cicero

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.
Weston, Massachusetts
Gathered in 1698
ORDER OF SERVICE for STREAMED WORSHIP
November 21, 2021
25th Sunday after Pentecost
Thanksgiving & Ingathering Sunday

PRELUDE: Moderato Salomo Heinrich Bodenschatz
Largo (1807-1859)

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Lift Up Our Hearts in Thanks* by Richard M. Fewkes

Minister: For the sun and the dawn, which we did not create;

People: **For the moon and the evening, which we did not make;**

Minister: For the food which we plant, but cannot grow;

People: **For friends and loved ones we have not earned
and cannot buy;**

Minister: For this gathered company, which welcomes us as we are,
from wherever we have come;

People: **Gifts of live and love and friendship,
we lift up our hearts in thanks this day.**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

HYMN 23: “We Gather Together”

**We gather together to ask for your blessing,
you chasten and hasten your will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
We praise your name, O God; forget not your own.**

**Beside us to guide us, O God, with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining, redeeming our world;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Lord, you were at our side; we trust in your word.**

**We all do extol you, our leader triumphant,
and pray that you still our defender will be.
Let your congregation escape tribulation.
Your name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

Minister: The Peace of God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE:

Sue Newbury and Liz Newbury

TIME FOR ALL AGES:

Rev. Sarah Napoline

ANTHEM: "O Be Joyful in the Lord" (Psalm 100)

Albert, Prince Consort to Queen Victoria
(1819-1861)

LESSON: Deuteronomy 8: 10-18

SONG

SERMON: "Thanksgiving"

Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER: "Give Thanks unto the Lord" (Psalm 117)

Alexander Arkhangel'sky
(1846-1924)

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

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.**

CLOSING HYMN 529 – "Let All Things Now living"

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

Prelude & Fugue in G Major

Johann Ludwig Krebs
(1713-1780)

Our greeter this morning is Holly 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.

STAFF

Minister:	Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Asst. Minister of Families & Community Outreach:	Rev. Sarah Napoline
Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator:	Robert Jones
Choir Director:	William C. Sano
Organist:	Geoffrey Wieting
Parish Administrator:	Betsy Gibson
Sexton:	Alan Flynn
AV Interns:	Max Hall, Jacob Barz-Snell, Jonah Barz-Snell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS: Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, you are welcome here at First Parish. If you are a first-time visitor and would like to receive the First Parish newsletter, please fill out the "Welcome" form in your pew rack and place it in the collection plate. We hope you will introduce yourself to the Ministers and join us for a time of light refreshment and fellowship in the Parish Hall after the service.

A WARM WELCOME TO GUEST MUSICIANS Larry Unger, banjo and guitar, and Eric Boodman, fiddle. We thank you for your ministry of music with us today.

FAMILY SERVICE & SUPPER – Come at 5:00 pm today for our monthly Family Service and Supper. We'll start in Sears Chapel with Rev. Sarah Napoline leading worship and guest musician Steve Sussman, then adjourn to the Parish Hall for soup and bread (along with crackers and cookies). Enjoy a bit of respite and renewal before the busy coming week! You can be home by 6:30 pm.

WAYS TO BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO THOSE IN NEED:

ANNUAL INGATHERING FOR WESTON COA FOOD PANTRY – If you meant to bring items today but life got in the way, donations can be dropped off tomorrow by noon. Copies of the COA's wishlist are on the sign-in table in the Breezeway.

WATCH CDC GIFT CARD DRIVE – They request physical and digital gift cards from only **HANNAFORD** and **INSTACART** as they are within walking distance of WATCH's clients and students. If you would like to participate:

1. Drop off cards at First Parish in the vestibule outside the Church Street entrance to the Church Office. The Outreach Committee will then deliver to WATCH;
2. Mail or drop off cards at WATCH CDC, 24 Crescent Street, Suite 201, Waltham MA 02453. Drop offs can be put through WATCH's mail slot, Suite 201; or
3. Purchase cards online. Click here for digital gift card instructions: <https://watchcdc.org/gift-card-drive/>

MITTEN TREE WISHES FOR THE SECOND STEP – Our Mitten Tree, with holiday wishes from families working with The Second Step to escape domestic abuse, makes its appearance again today. Stop by the tree in the main Breezeway and take a mitten to fulfill a wish. Unwrapped gifts and gift cards need to be brought to the church by Sunday, Dec. 5th, so that they can be delivered in time for holiday distribution. Or gift cards may be mailed directly to:

The Second Step – Attn: Sue Masterson
PO Box 600213
Newton, MA 02460

Robert Jones will keep track of fulfilled wishes so if you mail a card, please **email** or call him (781.893.7798, x 103) to let him know your gift is on its way.

KNITTERS & STITCHERS – Join us in the Parlor at noon on Mondays.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY MORNING MEDITATION AT 8:30 AM – Join us on Zoom; go to:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82932848257>; Meeting ID: 8293 2848 257

NO CHOIR REHEARSAL ON THURSDAY, NOV. 25 – We'll gather in The Loft instead on Sunday, Nov. 28, from 2:00-4:00 pm

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, NOV. 26