

Give light, and the darkness will disappear of itself.
– Desiderius Erasmus

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.
ORDER OF SERVICE for IN-PERSON and STREAMED WORSHIP
December 26, 2021 AD
Sunday after Christmas
Storybook Sunday – A Service of Carols and Stories

PRELUDE: Christmas Phantasies Kees Schoonerbeek (b. 1947)
A Christmas Prelude Frederick Septimus Kelly
(1881-1916)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST CAROL

*OPENING CAROL 137 – “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

CALL TO WORSHIP (*please remain standing*)

Minister: Today, let us be that stable,
let us be the place that welcomes at last the weary and rejected,
the pilgrim stranger, the coming life,

People: **That our hearts may find wisdom.**

Minister: In the Spirit of Christmas Present,
let us gather to view and question the way things are.

People: **Let not the frigid winds that pierce our inadequate walls,
or our mildewed hay, or the fetid odors of our cattle
shame us from our beckoning.**

Minister: Let our outstretched arms be a manger so that the infant hope,
swaddled in love, may have a place to lie.

People: **Let a cold beacon shine down upon us from a solstice sky
to guide to us the seekers who will come.**

Minister: The Peace of God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*THE PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER (*please be seated*) and THE LORD’S PRAYER (*unison*)

O thou who has called us out of the darkness into the marvelous light of life and love, help us to find our way through the noise and turmoil of the days ahead to the true meaning of Christmas, to its quiet joys and to its peace. Remind us that we cannot hear the songs until our own hearts learn to sing them, and that the most important gifts we can give to one another cannot be wrapped up and placed under a tree. This we ask in the spirit of your son Jesus, who taught us to prayer, saying together, OUR FATHER...

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE:

Georgia and Tod Foote

READING: Luke 2: 1-7

STORY FOR ALL AGES

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND CAROL

CAROL 150: "Away in a Manger"

INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

POEM: *Amazing Peace* by Dr. Maya Angelou

INTRODUCTION TO THE CLOSING CAROL

CAROL 135: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

BENEDICTION: Words by the Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman

Jeff Barz-Snell

POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

Leo Sowerby
(1895-1968)

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

Choir Section Leaders:

Ben Doyle

Rose Hegele

Connor Allen Lee

TJ Rufo-Curran

Betsy Gibson

Parish Administrator:

Alan Flynn

Sexton:

Paula Leger

Fellowship Hour Coordinator:

Jacob Barz-Snell

Video Production Team:

Jonah Barz-Snell

Max Hall

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, JAN. 2 – Epiphany Sunday – How can we come “bearing gifts” in a world such as ours?

SUNDAY, JAN. 9 – Our 10:30 am worship service will welcome back Sunday Service with author/drummer, song leader Matt Meyer for a lively and engaging service. The service will be about rivers and streams and what they can teach us about life and movement. This will be a family-friendly intergenerational service and include a story about a mouse named Desmond. COVID permitting, the service will be followed by a fellowship hour with soup, bread and crackers, (as well as coffee and tea.)

Please go to www.FirstParishWeston.org for up-to-date information about these services as the COVID situation changes.

ALSO COMING UP . . .

KNITTERS & STITCHERS – The group has decided to skip meeting on Dec. 27 and to gather virtually via Zoom for January and February. Join us on Mondays, starting Jan. 3, at noon.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82093835385>; Meeting ID: 8209 3835 385

MORNING MEDITATION GROUP WEDNESDAYS WEEKLY AT 8:30AM VIA ZOOM – Give yourself the gift of cultivating peace of mind with a community of fellow practitioners. Led by Chris Scheller and Jeff Barz-Snell.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82932848257>; Meeting ID: 8293 2848 257

RETIRED MEN’S LUNCH – Pack a bag lunch and join some of our retired men (and some who wish they were retired!) on the first Tuesday of each month, October through June, at noon in the church library or via Zoom. We share great conversation and camaraderie. We’ll meet next on Tuesday, Jan. 4.

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93692754694>; Meeting ID: 9369 2754 694

FPCW BOOK GROUP – Meeting monthly, our next gathering will be on Thursday, Jan. 6, at 9:30 in the Parlor (and via Zoom by advance request). We’ll be discussing *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro.

LADIES WHO LUNCH – This is a new group that has met twice since November. Our next gathering will be Tuesday, Jan. 18, at noon in the Parish Hall. Pack a lunch; coffee and tea will be hot and ready. Conversation goes wherever our thoughts take us!

LIVE INTERVIEW WITH ZEBRA FRIENDS PODCAST HOSTS KATANI SUMNER AND SARAH HUNTER – WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26 AT 7:00 PM. As part of this year’s All-Parish Read of *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, we will welcome Weston residents Katani and Sarah to the church for a live discussion about how they attempt to navigate the minefields of racial sensitivity within the context of their best friendship. If the COVID situation allows, we invite you to join us in the Parish Hall; otherwise we will live-stream the event.

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING – Sunday, Jan. 30, in the Parish Hall following worship. Come listen to a brief presentation of the proposed budget for 2022 and other financial matters affecting First Parish.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – Sunday, Feb. 6. in the Parish Hall following worship. We will vote on the Nominating Committee’s slate of officers and committees, the proposed budget for 2022, a proposal requesting from the UUA that First Parish be named as a Welcoming Congregation, and any other business that may come before the congregation.