



FIRST PARISH
CHURCH IN
WESTON

Gathered in 1698

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Sunday Service 10:30 am
Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, UU
Gathered in 1698
www.firstparishweston.org
Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
December 24, 2021
4:00 o'clock and 6 o'clock

PRELUDE Three Versets on "Away in a Manger" Mark Blatchley (b. 1960)

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

*CAROL – "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Chorus:

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Chorus

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy evening,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Eternal, now in flesh appearing;

Chorus

Adeste, fideles, laeti triumphantes
Venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte Regem angelorum.

Chorus:

**Venite adoremus,
Venite adoremus,
Venite adoremus, Dominum.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 60:1, 3-4) *(please remain standing)*

Minister: Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you;

People: **Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Lift up your eyes round about and see.**

Minister: The peace of God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Let us pray. *(please be seated)*

INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHRISTMAS STORY

THE FIRST READING: Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

CAROL – “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

(written by the Rev. Edmund Hamilton Sears, minister of this church 1866 - 1876)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven great news we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

THE SECOND READING: Luke 2:8-14 *The angel comes upon the shepherds*

CAROL – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your hev'nly song.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem, and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE THIRD READING: Luke 2: 15-20 *The shepherds go to the manger*

CAROL HISTORY

CAROL – “The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel did say was to
certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born in the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

THE FOURTH READING: Matthew 2:1-12 *And they presented unto him gifts*

TIME FOR ALL AGES

CAROL – “We Three Kings”

(All) We three kings of Orient are;
 Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 Following yonder star.

**Chorus: O star of wonder, star of night,
 Star, with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding,
 Guide us to thy perfect light.**

(Women) Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
 Gold I bring, to crown him again,
 King forever, ceasing never,
 Over us all to reign.

Chorus

(Men) Frankincense to offer have I,
 Incense owns a deity nigh.
 Prayer and praising, voices raising,
 Worshiping God on high.

Chorus

(Choir) Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
 Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
 Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
 Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Chorus

(All) Glorious now behold him arise,
 King and God and Sacrifice;
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Sounds through the earth and skies.

Chorus

THE FIFTH READING: John 1:1-14 *John tells of light and grace and the Word*

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Tonight's offering will be shared with International Institute of New England, an organization helping to resettle Afghan refugees in our area. We have also formed a task force of parishioners to provide hands-on help in their efforts.

SOLO	"O Holy Night" ("Cantique de Noel")	Adolph Adam
	4:00 pm – Rose Hegele, soprano	(1847)
	6:00 pm – TJ Rufo-Curran, tenor	

CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

The ushers will come down the aisles and present their candles, upright, to each pew. The person at the end of the pew tips his/her candle into that of the usher to light it. When lit, it should be held upright for the next person in the pew to light her/his candle, continuing down the row. In other words, no one should tip a lighted candle to prevent spills of hot wax. When the service is over, we ask that you please deposit your candles in the large bins by the doors.

*CAROL – "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ, The Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light'
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES



**We are grateful to the
following First Parishioners whose donations
in honor of loved ones provided the Christmas plants and wreaths:**

- In loving memory of Oliver H. & Alice Brewster, Bruce Brewster and James W. Nelson, Jr. from Sue & Glenn Brewster
- In loving memory of Daniel L. Nozik and loved ones from Gail Nozik
- In loving memory of Deborah S. Knight from her husband Peter and their children Lydia and Carter & his wife Abigail
- In loving memory of her husband, Andy Marvel, from Beanie.
- In loving memory of Elizabeth D., L. Frederick Kilham Jr. and Edith S. & E. Paul Floyd from Dick & Kathy Floyd
- In loving memory of Ruth & D. Bernard Pierson and Ellenora & John S. O'Brien, Sr. and John S. O'Brien, Jr. from the Pierson Family
- In memory of their fathers, James Dana and Peter Spier, from Jim Dana & Kathy Spier
- In loving memory of Kenneth Fish and Rachid Hankour from the Fish Family
- In loving memory of Ted and Fi Saad from Karen and Janet
- Georgia & Tod Foote and family celebrate the memory of Margaret & George Young and Esther & Gordon Foote.
- In loving memory of John O'Shea and Sue & Jerry Hughes from Nancy, Chris and Weston Hughes
- In loving memory of Tare Newbury from his family
- In loving memory of John, Mary, & John Jr. Przybyla and Dorothy, Woodrow & Harold Wilson from Bob & Joan Wilson
- Given in memory of Richard Masland from Jean, Molly and John
- Dedicated to members of the Allee, Kueffer, Charlson, and Flory Families they have loved and lost by Kurt, Cindy, Ellie, and Emma Flory
- In loving memory of her husband, Chick, by Pam Swain
- In memory of Barbara Elmes from Bill Sano
- In loving memory of Charlene Lynch from her family
- In loving memory of Ashley Kilburn-Peterson from her family
- In loving memory of her husband, Ren, from Mary Parker
- Christmas memories of Mimi & Pop, Michael Hutchison, Conrad Taff, and Deirdre Gollop, given by the Taff family
- The Flower Committee remembers Barbara Elmes who took great delight in arranging flowers for the altar, especially for summer services. She proposed using the little green trees with lights on the altar at Christmas time.

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY, DEC. 26 – Join us (in person if COVID allows or virtually if wisdom dictates) on Sunday, Dec. 26, at 10:30 am for this special, laid-back worship service as we celebrate and hold up some of the amazing carols and stories of the season. During this engaging service, we seek to “tell the story” behind the songs that we sing and the stories we share. Join us on Boxing Day as we offer a short and fun service in which we tell stories from the Festival of Christmas.

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’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.

DID YOU KNOW . . . that First Parish Church now generates 89% of its electricity onsite and has reduced its natural gas consumption by 33% over the last year? We have done this by installing a 25kW (AC) solar system on our roof and switching to programmable thermostats (17 in all) in our building.



Worldwide scientific consensus is clear and overwhelming. Every single major university and institution of higher learning concurs. All of us must find ways to reduce our carbon emissions by 40% over the next decade and by 90% by 2050. For a growing number of people, this is not a political issue but rather an existential and moral one. It’s about being good stewards of the Creation and leaving a livable world for our children and grandchildren, as well as saving millions of species from going extinct.

First Parish Weston invites you to consider anew the ways you can lower your carbon footprint in 2022. Install a solar PV system, purchase “green power,” and/or drive an electric vehicle. Arrange for a home energy audit (MassSave.com) and support the adoption of climate friendly policies and legislation. Support local groups such as www.metrowestclimatesolutions.org and www.sustainablewestonma.org These are just a few ideas. There’s many more.

“Blessed are those who find ways to live more lightly on this planet, for they will inherit the earth.”



He was born in an obscure village and grew up in another. He was a humble carpenter for perhaps 30 years and then an itinerant preacher for three.

He never wrote a book or owned a home. He never held an office, never had a family of his own and never went to college. He never raised an army, never set foot in a big city and never travelled two hundred miles from where he was born.

He gathered a little group of friends around him and taught them his way of life based on the Jewish Scriptures.

While still a young man, popular feeling turned against him. His friends ran away. One denied him and another betrayed him.

He was turned over to the authorities and endured the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled on the only thing he owned, a cloak. His body was laid in a borrowed grave by the kindness of a friend.

Twenty centuries have passed. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not influenced humankind as has this one solitary man.

Regardless of what you believe or don't believe about this man, his vision for this world, the coming Kingdom of God, was real and powerful – and it still is.

Merry Christmas to All!

STAFF:

Minister:
Asst. Minister for Families & Community Outreach
Parish Administrator:
Senior Choir Director:
Organist:
Choir Staff:

Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator:
Sexton:
Fellowship Hour Coordinator:
A.V. Tech Staff:

Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Rev. Sarah Napoline
Betsy Gibson
William C. Sano
Geoffrey Wieting
Benjamin Doyle
Rose Hegele
Connor Allen Lee
TJ Rufo
Robert Jones
Alan Flynn
Paula Leger
Jacob Barz-Snell
Jonah Barz-Snell
Max Hall



*Lo, in the silent night
A child to God is born
And all is brought again
That ere was lost or lorn
Could but thy soul, O man,
Become a silent night!
God would be born in thee
And set all things aright.*

– 15th Century