

*Prayer does not change things; prayer changes people, and people change things.*

~ Lon Ray Call

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.

Weston, Massachusetts

*Gathered in 1698*

ORDER OF SERVICE

January 28, 2024 A.D. at 10:30 am

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Annual Budget Hearing

PRELUDE	Prelude from "Pieces en Style Libre" Op. 31, Livre 1	Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
	Schübler Chorale "Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten"	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO WORSHIP – by Maryell Cleary (adapted)

One: For untold centuries people have drawn apart from the workaday world to worship, to celebrate, and to wonder at things beyond and within themselves.

Many: **So we are gathered here to raise our sights and look at new horizons. Life is more than toil for bread. Life has meaning and purpose.**

One: As we celebrate life together, let us seek harmony within ourselves, with one another, and that which is Holy in this life,

Many: **And let us find our lives uplifted and made whole.**

\*OPENING HYMN 445 – “Be Thou My Vision”

One: The Peace of God be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

EXCHANGE OF PEACE AND WELCOME

CHURCH COVENANT:

**In the love of truth and the spirit of Jesus Christ  
We join for the worship of God and service to humankind.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Holy God, holy, gracious, and merciful - we gather mindful of your covenant with us and all creation. Help us to see more clearly your truth, goodness and beauty in our lives. We gather mindful of your wonderful deeds and your powerful work among us. Grant that we may be joined with all your creation in praising you in the name of the One who was, and is, and is to come. This we ask in the name of your son Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying together: Our Father...**

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

Richard Weeks  
Chair, Denominational Affairs Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Sarah Napoline

MUSIC MEDITATION (and dismissal to children's program)

READING: Psalm 46: 1-6, 8-10

ANTHEM

Great and Glorious

Franz Joseph Haydn  
(1732-1809)

SERMON: "The Gospel of Showing Up"

Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell

MUSIC MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY:

The Heavens Are Telling  
from *Creation*, Hob. XXI:2

Franz Joseph Haydn  
(1875-1958)

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, the Love we all may share;  
Praise God, the beauty everywhere;  
Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;  
Praise God, the Truth that makes us free.**

\*CLOSING HYMN 482 – "Forward Through the Ages" (vs. 1-3)

\*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C

J. S. Bach

Our Greeter this morning is Beanie Marvel.

We welcome Mary Jane Rupert as our guest organist this morning and thank her for her ministry of music with us.

First Parish Church has long welcomed people with different perspectives, backgrounds, and orientations. As a Welcoming Congregation, we happily invite all people into our 21st century community and church.

# Be Thou My Vision

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

nought be all else to me save that thou art.  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou my Re - deem - er, my love thou hast won;  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 Rul - er of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

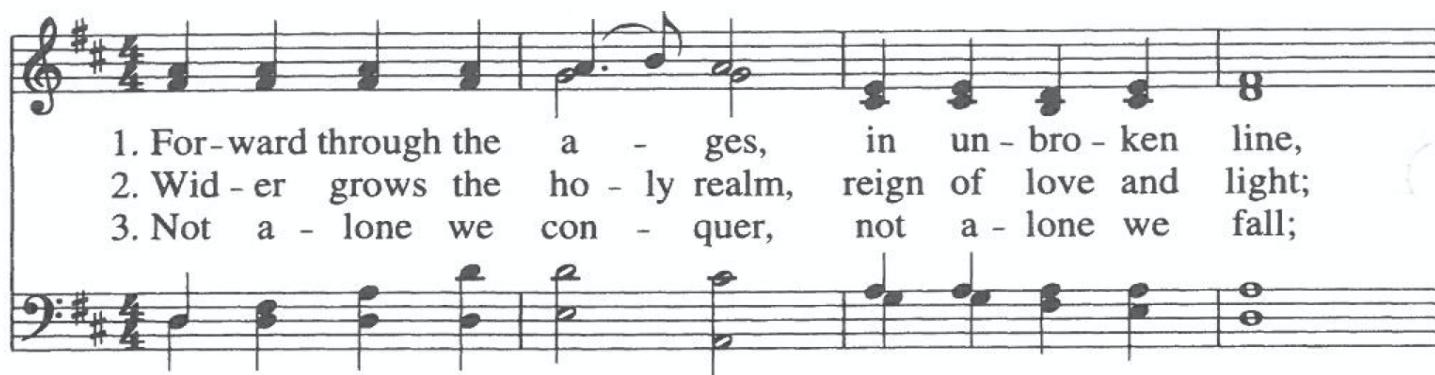
WORDS: Ancient Irish, tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.  
 MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody, harm. David Evans, *Revised Church Hymnary*, 1927

SLANE  
 10 10.9 10

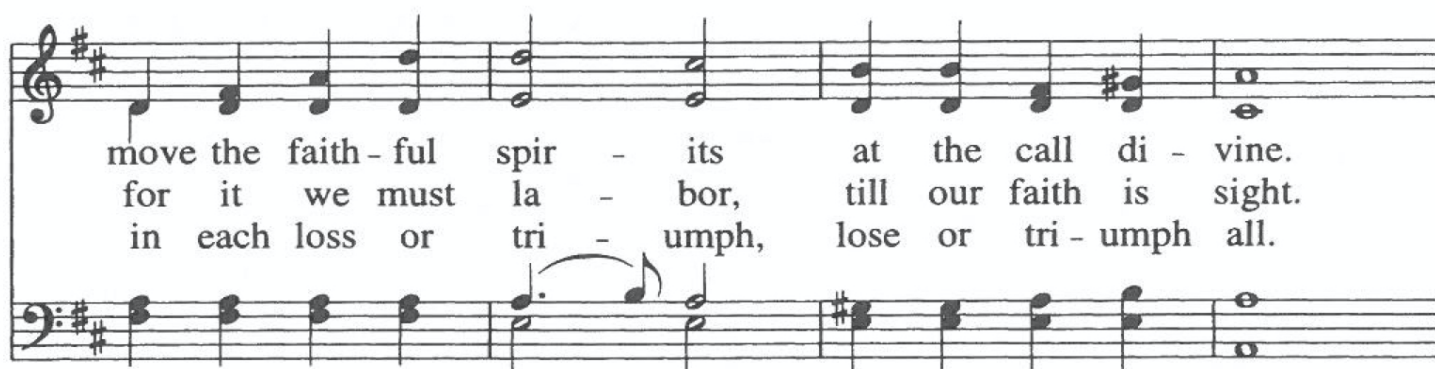
The original Irish text dates from c. A.D. 700. SLANE is an ancient ballad tune named for the hill where St. Patrick lit Easter fires.

Harm. © 1927, by permission  
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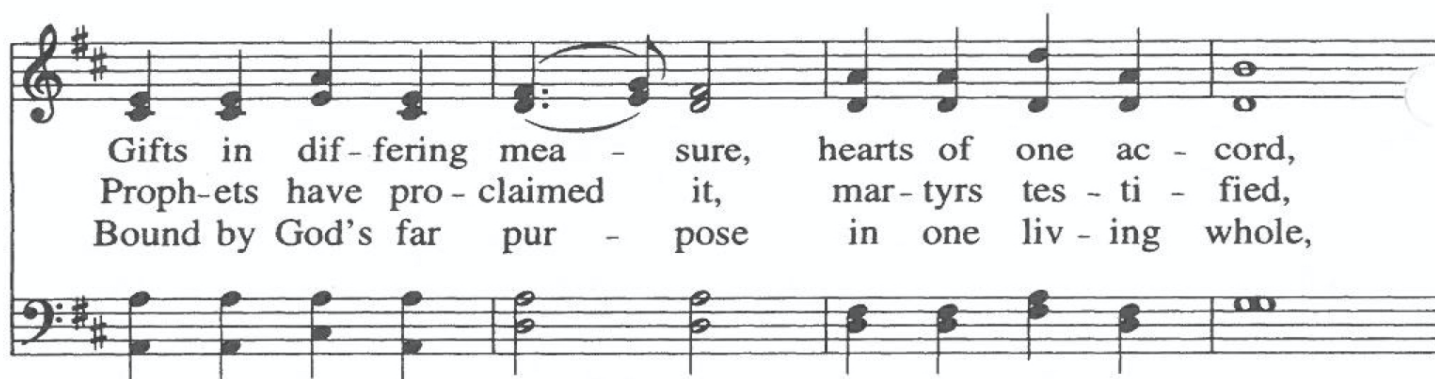
# Forward Through the Ages



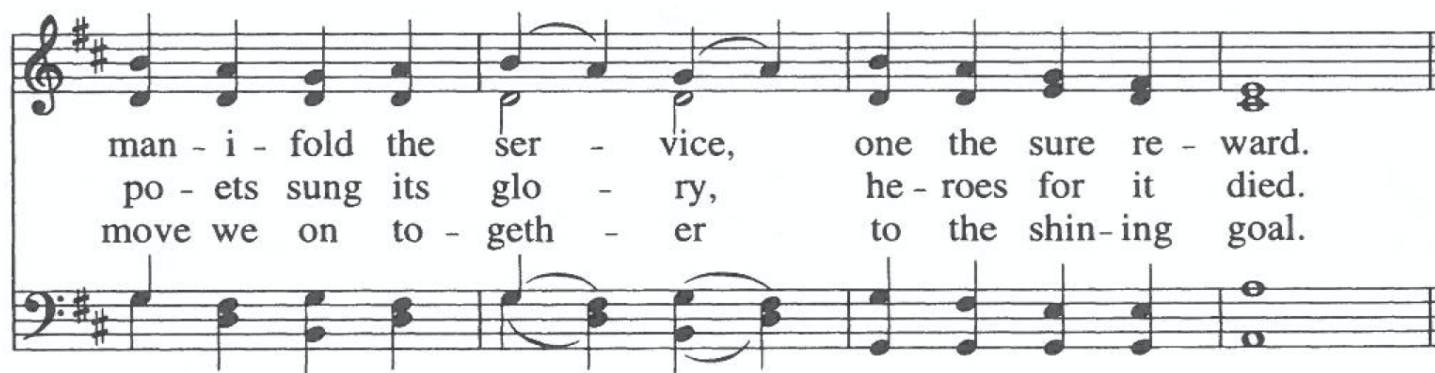
1. For-ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,  
 2. Wid - er grows the ho - ly realm, reign of love and light;  
 3. Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;



move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.  
 for it we must la - bor, till our faith is sight.  
 in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.



Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,  
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, mar - tyrs tes - ti - fied,  
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,



man - i - fold the ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.  
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, he - roes for it died.  
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

WORDS: Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908, alt.  
 MUSIC: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871

ST. GERTRUDE  
 65.65D w. refrain

Hosmer served both Congregational and Unitarian churches from Massachusetts to California. Sullivan (of Gilbert and Sullivan renown) composed fifty-six hymn tunes, but ST. GERTRUDE is the only one that we retain.

**No Bishops, No Presbyteries, No Councils Nor Popes.  
All we have is each other.**

Following the service today we will adjourn for a brief time of fellowship and then reconvene in the Sanctuary for our Annual Budget Hearing, hosted by Kurt Flory, our Treasurer. This will be followed by next week's Annual Meeting after church when we will elect officers, hear reports from our committees and celebrate the work and collective ministry that is this church. We are the oldest democracy in Weston – over 325 years and still going strong! We invite you to attend our programs and observe congregational polity in action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KNITTERS & STITCHERS – The group plans to meet tomorrow at noon in the Parlor. Hope to see you there!

WEDNESDAY MORNING VIRTUAL MEDITATION, 8:30 AM, JAN. 25. All are welcome.

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86893852932> / Meeting ID: 8689 2852 932**

CHOIR REHEARSAL, THURSDAY, FEB. 2 – In the Sanctuary from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. Newcomers welcome!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – On Sunday, Feb. 4, we encourage everyone to remain after worship for the Annual Meeting at which the proposed 2024 budget will be voted on, as well as the Nominating Committee's slate of committee members and committee liaisons for the 2024 year. We will also have some special refreshments during Fellowship Hour to welcome some new members.

RETIRED MEN'S LUNCH, Tuesday, Feb. 6, at noon in the Library and via Zoom.

**<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92050754542> / Meeting ID: 9205 0754 542**

STEWARDSHIP APPRECIATION DINNER & TRIVIA CONTEST – As a thank-you to all who have made a commitment of financial support for 2024, the Stewardship Committee will host a catered dinner and trivia contest by Big Thing Trivia on Friday, Feb. 9th, at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office.

SUNDAY WORSHIP ON FEB. 11TH – Musician and Worship Leader Matt Meyer returns to lead our service. This will be followed by our Annual Chocolate Sunday Fellowship Hour

CHOCOLATE SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP RETURNS ON FEB. 11! Celebrate Valentine's Day a little early. Along with our chocolate fountain, we hope that you will bring a favorite chocolate concoction to share and if you have a truly spectacular treat, we'll include it in our raffle to benefit a local non-profit. Please let us know by going to:

**<https://firstparishweston.org/event/chocolate-sunday-2024/>**

NEXT UP FOR FPCW BOOK GROUP – Our February meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 22, at 9:30 am in the Library or via Zoom. We'll discuss *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane.

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89058754028> / Meeting ID: 8905 8754 028**

ONE OF MY FAVORITE HYMNS - Do you have a favorite hymn that you love to sing or hear? This fall we are introducing a new occasional element on Sundays. We are inviting folks to sign up to introduce one of their favorite hymns. Each volunteer will have 3-5 minutes to share a favorite hymn and why it is meaningful to them. It could be the music, or the lyrics, or that it was sung at an important moment in their lives. What's your favorite hymn? To sign up, speak with the Minister or call the Church Office.