

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

~ Bishop Desmond Tutu

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.
Weston, Massachusetts
Gathered in 1698
ORDER OF SERVICE
January 7, 2024 A.D. at 10:30 am
Epiphany Sunday / The 2nd Sunday after Christmas

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Patrick T. A. O'Neill, adapted)

Minister: Here's to Epiphanies great and small whenever they occur.

People: **A blessing on all Wise Men and Women, East and West.**

Minister: Here's to the stargazers and pilgrims everywhere,
who are still foolish enough and brave enough
to follow their stars.

People: **Who travel by night, and
who bestow their uncommon gifts on us all.**

*HYMN 407 – “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Minister: The Peace of God be with you.

People: **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

O God, from arrogance, pompousness, and from thinking ourselves more important than we are, may some saving sense of humor liberate us. For allowing ourselves to ridicule the faith of others, may we be forgiven. From making war and calling it peace, special privilege and calling it justice, indifference and calling it tolerance, pollution and calling it progress, may we be cured. For telling ourselves and others that evil is inevitable while good is impossible, may we stand corrected. God of our mixed up, tragic, aspiring, doubting, and insurgent lives, help us to be as good as in our hearts we have always wanted to be. This we ask in the name of your son Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying together: Our Father...

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

Jeff Barz-Snell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Sarah Napoline

DISMISSAL TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

READINGS: Psalm 9: 11-20

Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations

ANTHEM

“Carol of the Kings”

Linda Steen Spevacek
(b. 1945)

SERMON: “Remaining Human”

Dr. Marc Loustau

What is at stake when we support humanitarian programs in Ukraine?
Reflections on a recent trip to Ukraine to report on humanitarian psychotherapy programs
for people displaced by the war.

MUSIC MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY

“The Shepherds’ Farewell to the Holy Family”
from *L’enfance du Christ*, op. 25

Hector Berlioz
(1803-1869) DOXOLOGY

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.**

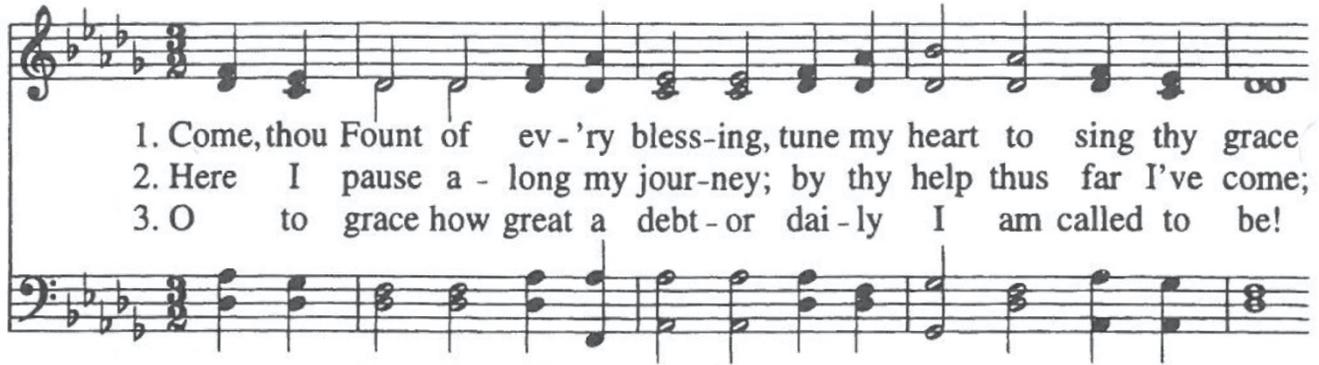
*CLOSING HYMN 168 – “As With Gladness Men of Old”

*BENEDICTION

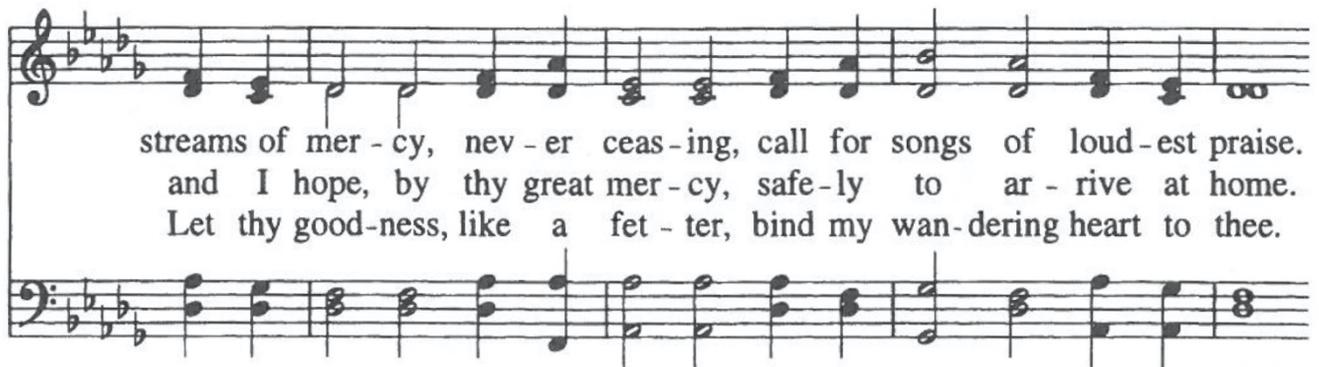
POSTLUDE

We are happy to welcome Dr. Marc Roscoe Loustau to our service today. Marc is a cultural anthropologist and journalist who specializes in Eastern Europe after living in Hungary and Romania for four years. He has appeared on the BBC News and France 24, and has published articles in the Christian Science Monitor, the Christian Century, La Croix International, The Tablet, and other magazines and newspapers. He lives in Roslindale with his wife Amy, son Sebastian, and dog Ramona.

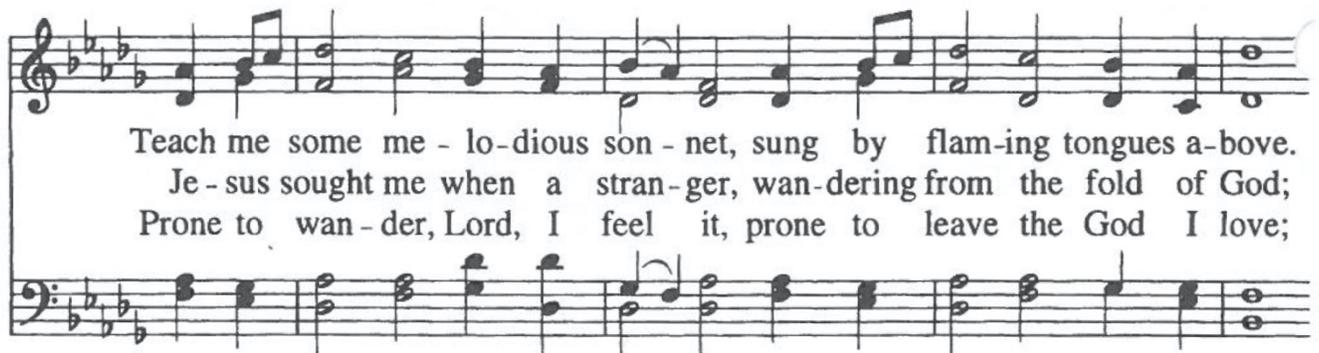
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



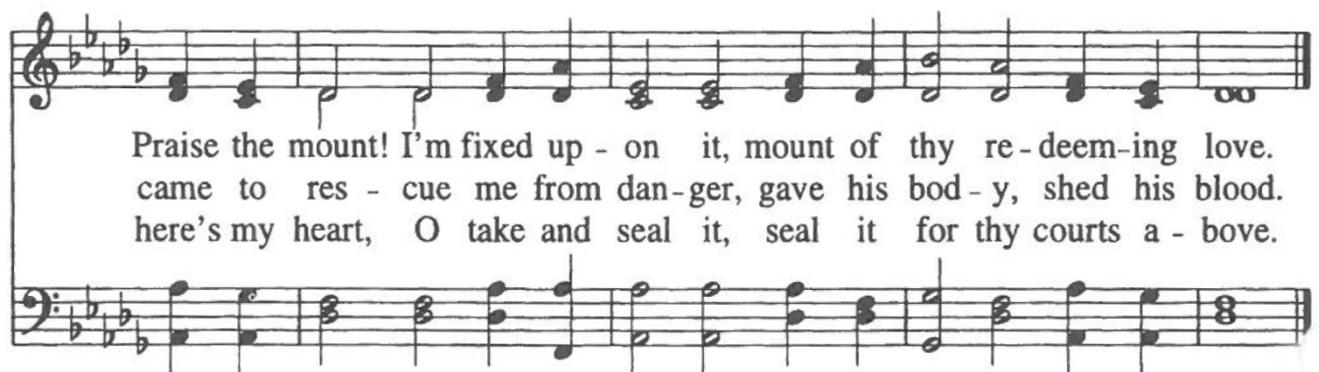
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace
2. Here I pause a - long my jour-ney; by thy help thus far I've come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy great mer - cy, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



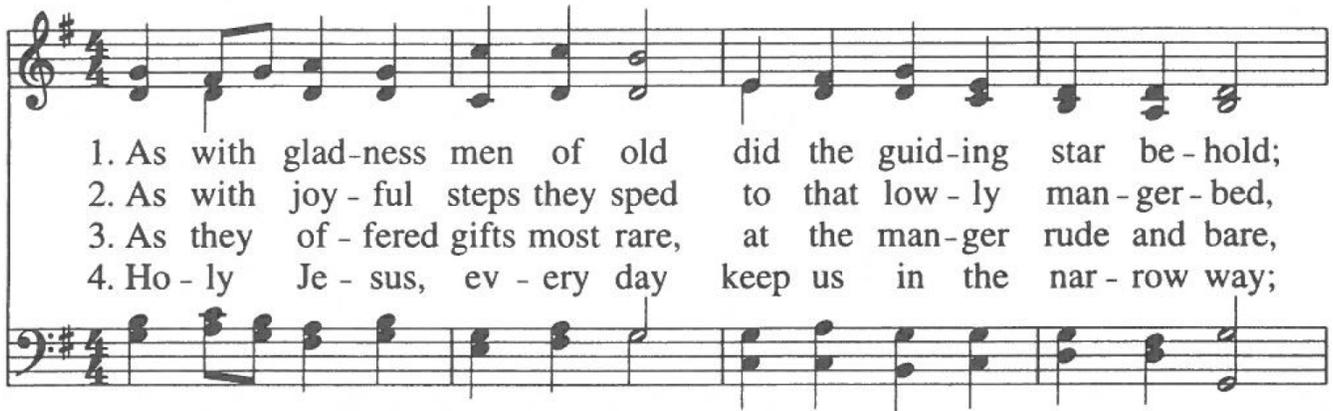
Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.
came to res - cue me from dan - ger, gave his bod - y, shed his blood.
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

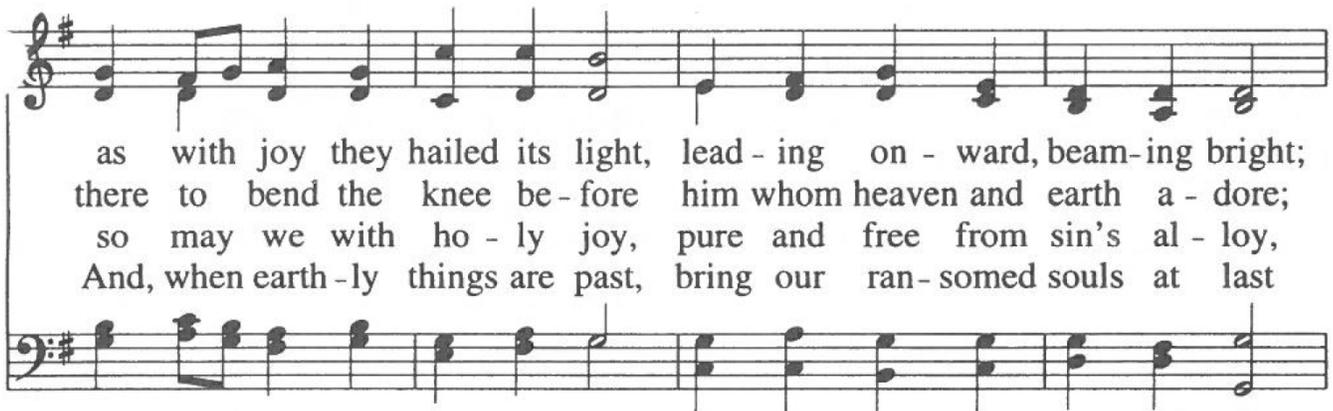
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813

NETTLETON
87.87D

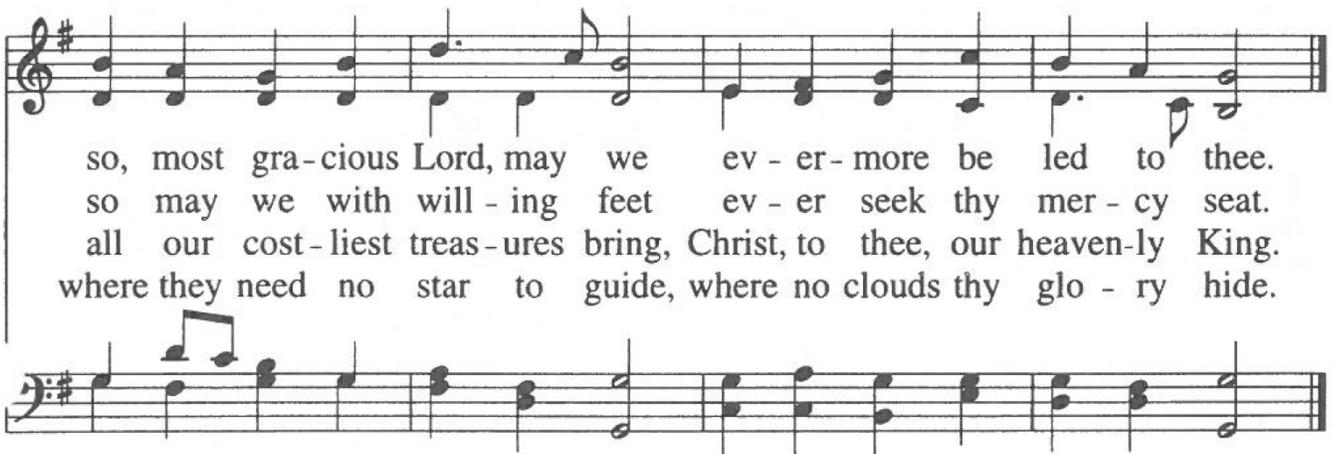
Robinson, an English barber, became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and, later, a Baptist minister. His text has been sung to this American folk tune since 1813.



1. As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2. As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly man-ger-bed,
 3. As they of-fered gifts most rare, at the man-ger rude and bare,
 4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore him whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 And, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest treas-ures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly King.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1861. alt.
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William H. Monk, 1861

DIX
 77.77.77

William Chatterton Dix was a Glasgow, Scotland insurance salesman whose avocations were languages and poetry. In his day, lay hymn writers were a rarity.

EPIPHANY

The flowers on the altar this morning are given in loving memory of
 Deborah S. Knight from her husband Peter and their children Lydia
 and Carter and his wife Abigail

Stay safe and warm at home and join us on Zoom for
Virtual Fellowship Hour!
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97024490619> / Meeting ID: 9702 4490 619

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. If you are visiting, we hope you will check in at our welcome table and introduce yourself to the ministers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW TO FIRST PARISH AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE? The Welcome Committee's Meet & Greet Reception originally scheduled for today has been postponed until Sunday, Jan. 21, after worship. We hope you'll join us then for refreshments, information, and making new friends.

KNITTERS & STITCHERS – The group will meet at noon in the Parlor on Monday, Jan. 8.

RETIRED MEN'S LUNCH – Pack up your favorite lunch and join Jeff Barz-Snell and friends in the Library (or on Zoom) at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

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

MONTHLY BEREAVEMENT GROUP – Join Jeff Barz-Snell on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 4:00 pm in the Parlor. This group welcomes anyone who grieves a loss no matter how recent or distant that loss may be.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY MORNING MEDITATION AT 8:30 AM – Join us on Zoom; go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86893852932>

COMMUNITY YOGA FLOW CLASS MEETS 1ST AND 3RD FRIDAYS – Grab your mat, water bottle, and perhaps a friend to join Sarah Napoline in the Parish Hall at 10:00 am for a free hour of stretching, strengthening, balance, and relaxation/meditation. Email **SarahNapoline@FirstParishWeston.org** if questions.

IT'S ANNUAL REPORT TIME! Betsy Gibson has e-mailed copies of the previous year's annual reports to Committee Chairs & Facilitators. This year's reports are due in the office by Tuesday, Jan. 23.

STANDING COMMITTEE, TUESDAY, JAN. 16, AT 7:30 PM – in the Parlor or via Zoom

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93420900113>; Meeting ID: 9342 0900 113

LADIES WHO LUNCH, Wednesday, Jan. 17, at noon – Pack a lunch and head to the Library for an hour or so of catching up on holiday news and whatever other subjects our thoughts take us. Coffee and tea provided.

FISSION & FUSION: CAN NEW-GENERATION NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES HELP FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE? On Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 7 pm, MetroWest Climate Solutions hosts this online program about nuclear power, often a divisive topic. For more information about the speakers and to register, go to:

www.metrowestclimatesolutions.org

FPCW BOOK GROUP – Our next monthly gathering will be on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 9:30 in the Library and via Zoom. We'll discuss *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Varghese.

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

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING, Sunday, Jan. 29, after worship

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – Sunday, Feb 4, after worship

CHOCOLATE SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP RETURNS ON FEB. 11! Celebrate Valentine's Day a little early. (Is it ever too early for chocolate?!) If you'd like, bring a favorite recipe to share, and if you have a truly spectacular treat, we'll include it in our raffle to benefit a local non-profit. ??s - please email Robert Jones at **RJones@firstparishweston.org**.