

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.
~ Maya Angelou

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.
~Thomas Jefferson

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.
ORDER OF SERVICE
November 17, 2024 A.D.
The 26th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Psalm-Prelude, Op. 32 No. 1
Ps. 34, v. 6:
*The poor man cried, and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.*

Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

CALL TO WORSHIP – by the Rev. Shari Woodbury, adapted

One: We welcome all who seek renewal in a weary world.
We welcome all who come with love and energy to share.

Many: **We welcome those who worry for the future.
We welcome those who are grateful for today.**

One: Know that in this place you are not alone.

Many: **In community we share our strength with one another
and we keep the flame of love burning bright.**

One: Know that, in this place, responsibility is shared.
Here, tradition holds us; ancestors shine a light from the past.

Many: **Here in this gathering we find inspiration, connection,
and some greater sense of what is real and sacred.**

* HYMN 526 – “Come Ye Thankful People, Come”

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 FOLLOWED BY LORD'S PRAYER

**Loving God, you have called us by name and we are ready to follow in the footsteps of the prophets. We shall speak your word to the people and be repairers of the breach, the restorers of streets to live on. With your help we will remove the yoke of oppression, offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted. Then your light shall rise in the darkness and through you shall raise up a just and peaceful people, the foundations of many generations. This we ask in the name of your servant Jesus who taught us to pray, saying together:
Our Father . . .**

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Sarah Napoline

DISMISSAL TO CHURCH SCHOOL

**Go now in Peace, Go now in Peace,
May the love of God surround you,
Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.**

READING: Proverbs 21:1-8

ANTHEM:

“Hear My Prayer”
featuring Rose Hegele, soprano

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

SERMON: “Grieving Big and Small”

Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell

CHORIAL CALL TO PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER, followed by a moment of silence

MUSIC RESPONSE

OFFERTORY

“O For the Wings of a Dove”
featuring Rose Hegele, soprano

Felix Mendelssohn

*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.**

* HYMN 527 – “For the Fruit of All Creation”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Dialogue sur les grand jeux

Louis-Nicolas Cierambault
(1676-1749)

The flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory
of Tare Newbury from his family

Our Greeter this morning is Jessica Pohl.

First Parish Church has long welcomed people with different perspectives, backgrounds, and orientations. As a Welcoming Congregation, we happily invite all people to be a part of our 21st century community and church. If you are visiting, we hope you will fill out a welcome card and put it in the collection plate, introduce yourself to the ministers, and then join us for a time of fellowship and light refreshment in the Parish Hall.

STAFF

Minister:

Asst. Minister of Families & Community Outreach:

Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator:

Music Director:

Organist:

Choir Section Leaders:

Parish Administrator:

Sexton:

Fellowship Coordinator:

Video Production Staff:

Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell

Rev. Sarah Napoline

Robert Jones

TJ Rufo Curran

Geoffrey Wieting

Nathaniel Bear, Benjamin Doyle

Rose Hegele, Nathan Savant

Betsy Gibson

Alan Flynn

Paula Leger

Peter Constable

UPCOMING WORSHIP & HOLIDAY EVENTS

NOVEMBER 24 – Thanksgiving/Ingathering Sunday

DECEMBER 1 – First Sunday in Advent and Pageant Rehearsal
Weston Town Christmas Tree Lighting at 4:00 pm

DECEMBER 6 – First Parish Christmas Party and Carol Sing

DECEMBER 8 – All-Music Sunday Worship and Pageant Rehearsal

DECEMBER 15 – Christmas Pageant Worship

DECEMBER 22 – Yuletide Sunday Worship

DECEMBER 24 – Christmas Eve Services of Lessons and Carols
at 4:00 & 6:00 pm

DECEMBER 29 – New Year's Sunday Worship

*Make Merry With Us on
Friday, December 6th!*



Childcare

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Family Cookie Decorating

6:00-6:30 pm

Pizza & Movie for Children

6:30-8:00 pm

Christmas Reception for Adults

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Carol Sing with Everyone in Sanctuary

8:00 pm



Join us for an evening of appetizers, ham, desserts, wine & soft drinks, and plenty of Christmas cheer! Childcare for very young children will be available from 6:00-8:30. Family cookie decorating will take place from 6:00-6:30 pm in the Parish Hall, followed by pizza and a movie for the children and the reception for adults. Then at 8:00, everyone will gather together in the Sanctuary to sing favorite carols of the season.

A fire pit will be going outdoors for anyone who'd like to prolong the festivities after the caroling!



SEASON OF GIVING AT FIRST PARISH

- THANKSGIVING INGATHERING – When grocery shopping for the holiday, please consider picking up an item (or several) from the Weston Council on Aging’s wish list for their Food Pantry. Copies of the Wish List are on the Literature Table in the Breezeway. Bring donations to church for the Thanksgiving/Ingathering Service on November 24 or by Monday, Dec. 2.
- COLD WEATHER OUTERWEAR/BEDDING DRIVE – The International Institute of New England (IINE), our partner in our *Weston Resettles Together* effort, is in need of new and gently-used winter outerwear and twin or queen comforters/quilts/blankets for recently resettled refugees. There are flyers in the Breezeway detailing items desired. Bins will be in the Breezeway and the Vestibule outside the Church Office (open 24/7) and the deadline for donations is Sunday, Dec. 1. Please contact Camille Schmidek if you have any questions (schmideks@comcast.net/617.895,8495).
- MITTEN TREE - This year, the Mitten Tree drive will run from November 24th through December 15th, with all gifts and cards being delivered no later than December 18th. We'll have wishes from families at the *Waltham Boys and Girls Club*, along with gift card wishes from *The Second Step*. Both of these organizations are also supported by our Outreach Committee.
- TORDA CRAFTS – The women of our Partner Church in Torda, Romania have been hard at work again this year making lovely handcrafted items that will be available for sale during Fellowship Hour on selected dates yet to be determined. All proceeds from purchases of these items will be sent to the Torda Church to support their ministries.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE HOLIDAY CHEER FOR THOSE IN NEED

- WESTON PTO FOOD DRIVE FOR BRISTOL LODGE – The Weston PTO and the town’s public schools will collect non-perishable donations for the Bristol Lodge Food Pantry and Homeless shelters in designated collection bins at each of the schools. The goal is to collect at least 2500 items from each of the schools. Suggested items: canned goods, pasta, boxed juices, cereals, kids’ snacks, condiments, baby food, dried beans, and rice. Pull-top lids are preferred (not everyone has a can opener), and all items must be non-expired. Gift cards are also welcomed.
- TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION – The Weston Police Department will collect NEW, UNWRAPPED toys for the United States Marine Corps Reserve “Toys For Tots” program from now until December 10th. Donations may be dropped off at the Weston Police Department (180 Boston Post Road Bypass), Weston Fire Department (394 Boston Post Road), Weston Community Center (20 Alphabet Lane), and Weston Town Hall (11 Townhouse Road). Weston has always been extremely generous in supporting Toys for Tots. We thank everyone in advance for your generosity and support during this Holiday Season!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Monday, Nov. 18.
- KNITTERS & STITCHERS meet tomorrow at Noon in the Parlor.
- STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY, NOV. 19, AT 7:30 PM. Attend in person in the Parlor or via Zoom.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82860318011> / Meeting ID: 8286 0318 011
- LADIES WHO LUNCH, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, Noon in the Library. Pack a lunch and connect in conversation. Coffee and tea provided, and newcomers are welcomed any time!
- THURSDAY MORNING MEDITATION – Join us virtually on Zoom at 8:30 am on Thursdays for a time of reflection and renewal! Beginner or experienced - all are welcome! **<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87938995674> / Meeting ID: 8793 8995 674**
- BRISTOL LODGE SUPPER, Wednesday, Nov. 27 – We still need donations for this dinner, which we have tried to keep simple due to it being the night before Thanksgiving. There is a list of the needs in the Breezeway, along with disposable pans. If you prefer, chili and corn muffins can be made ahead and frozen to avoid conflict with Thanksgiving - plenty of freezer space at FPCW. If you can help, please let Ellen Touart-Grob or Betsy Gibson know. Thank you!
- CALLING ALL SINGERS! Please consider joining us for our upcoming All Music Sunday, December 8th, presentation of Vivaldi’s *Introduction and Gloria* with string quintet, flute, trumpet, oboe, and organ. Interested singers should join us at rehearsals beginning at 8:20PM on Thursday evenings (but not Thanksgiving Day!). There is a dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10:00am-12:00pm prior to the service on Sunday Dec. 8. Please email Music Director TJ Rufo-Curran with questions: **tjrufoc@firstparishweston.org**.