The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. ~ Coretta Scott King

The First Parish Church in Weston, U.U. ORDER OF SERVICE February 16, 2025 A.D. The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany / Presidents' Day Weekend

| Prelude | Lord, Have Mercy (Jazz Mass for Organ) | Joe Utterback (b. 1944) |
|---------|--|----------------------------|
| | Adoration | Florence Price (1887-1953) |

CALL TO WORSHIP - 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. In community we share our strength with one another

Many: 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 sacred and real.

*HYMN: "Come and Go With Me to That Land" (Afr. Amer. Spiritual; see insert)

Minister: The Peace of God be with you. People: **And also with you.**

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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 LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, Loyal and Mysterious Friend who is always with us: as we face uncertain times, we recognize the future depends on us. We know that to make a better tomorrow, to be our best selves, we must be bold enough to dwell in our discomfort, brave enough to be clumsy there, and loving enough to forgive ourselves and each other as we strive to make a difference. May we, as a people of faith, be granted the strength to be so bold, so brave, and so loving. This we ask in the spirit of your son Jesus, who taught us to pray to you, Mother and Father of all, saying together, Our Father....

| LIGHTING | OF THE CHALICE: | Djamilya Blazh and her daughter, Alice |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Announc | EMENTS | |
| TIME FOR ALL AGES | | Rev. Sarah Napoline |
| DISMISSA | l to Children's Program | |
| Мау | ow in peace, go now in peace, the love of God surround you, ywhere, everywhere, you may go. | |
| LESSON: | Proverbs 3: 21-25 | |
| ANTHEM | "Keep Your Lamps!" | arr. Andre Thomas (b. 1952) |
| SERMON: | "The Gospel of Making Connections: On Living a Good Live" | Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell |
| CALL TO F | PRAYER | |
| PASTORAL | PRAYER, followed by a moment of silence | |
| OFFERTOR | "Ezekiel Saw De Wheel" | William Dawson (1899-1990) |
| Doxolog | Y | |
| | Praise God, the Love we all may sh Praise God, the beauty everywhere Praise God, the Hope of Good to be Praise God, the Truth that makes u | ; ; |
| *Hymn # | 352 – "Go Forth for God" | |
| BENEDICT | TION | |
| Postludi | E Two Fantasias on Our Father Who Art in Heaven | Johann Ulrich Steigleder (1593-1635) |

Come and Go with Me

Easy swing = = = 120



Words & music: African-American spiritual, slavery period, arr. Kenny Smith, 1965 –

(Continued on next page)

Come and Go with Me - 2



- 3. There'll be justice in that land. . .
- 4. There'll be singin' in that land. . .

Go Forth for God



English Anglican Canon Peacey began writing hymn texts after retirement in 1966. He based this text on Paul's letter to the Romans (12:9-21).

Words © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.

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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 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.

Join us in the Parish Hall today after worship for our wildly popular Chocolate Sunday Fellowship Hour tradition. We will have a wide array of pre-Valentine's chocolate treats for your enjoyment! There will also be a raffle for some extra special confections, with proceeds benefitting disaster relief related to the devastating California wildfires. Come share the love!

STAFF

Minister: Asst. Minister of Families & Community Outreach: Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator: Music Director: Organist: Choir Soloists:

Parish Administrator: Fellowship Hour 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 Paula Leger Peter Constable

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE GOOD LIFE PROGRAM, Today Feb. 16, in the Parlor after church. Last year we invited folks to read *The Good Life: Lessons from the World's Longest Scientific Study of Happiness*, by Dr. Robert Waldinger and Prof. Mark Shulz. Directors of the Harvard Study on Adult Development, they ran the longest running longitudinal study of its kind, which followed the same people and now their families since 1938. The book summarizes their findings based on the last 85 years of observation and their best answers to what contributes to living a "good life." Relationships matter a lot, as does having a purpose; the acquisition of material goods matters less than you might think. We will hold two more after-church programs Mar. 16, and May 4. These forums will include short videos, screen presentations and conversation. Hosted by Sarah Napoline, Robert Jones and Jeff Barz-Snell.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed tomorrow, Presidents' Day, and Knitters & Stitchers will not meet. Join them again at noon in the Parlor on Monday, Feb. 24.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING, Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7:30 pm in the Library or via Zoom https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96831828199 / Meeting ID: 9683 1828 199

LADIES WHO LUNCH, Wednesday, Feb. 19, at noon in the Library.

WEEKLY THURSDAY MORNING MEDITATION meets on at 8:30 am on Zoom for approximately 45 minutes https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87938995674

FPCW BOOK GROUP, Thursday, Feb. 20, at 9:30 am in the Library or via Zoom. We'll be discussing *The Seed Keeper: A Novel* by Diane Wilson.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83268162066 / Meeting ID: 8326 8162 066

CHOIR REHEARSAL, Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

- COMMUNITY YOGA FLOW CLASS, FRIDAY, FEB. 21, at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. This free class is open to anyone; bring a mat, blocks (if you have), water bottle and an open mind! Questions? Contact Sarah Napoline (sarahnapoline@FirstParishWeston.org).
- BRISTOL LODGE SUPPER Wednesday, Feb. 26. We'll serve turkey meatloaf, baked beans, cole slaw, fruit, and cookies and bars. Copies of the turkey meatloaf recipe, pans, and quantities still needed are in the Breezeway.

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY BOOK AND DISCUSSION GROUP - Friday, Feb. 28, 4 pm in the Parlor

GAME NIGHT – Friday, Feb. 28! Join us for a fun evening of games, food, and fellowship! Gather your friends and rivals for a night of cunning, strategy, and dumb luck. We will provide pizza, beverages (seltzer, soda, juice), and snacks, but you are welcome to BYOABTCR (Bring Your Own Adult Beverages To Consume Responsibly). Sign up at:

https://firstparishweston.org/event/board-game-night-2025/

Chocolate Sunday Fellowship Hour Sunday, March 2

Join us for our (previously postponed) annual Chocolate Sunday! In addition to coffee and tea at our usual after-church social hour, we will have a wide array of chocolatey treats on hand!
We seek volunteers to bring chocolate snacks – the more variety, the better! We will also welcome back a Covid-safe version of our extraordinary chocolate fountain, with an attendant to do the dipping. In addition to donations and the chocolate fountain, we are holding a raffle for some *extra* special treats provided by some of our favorite chocolatiers & bakers. The raffle will benefit wildfire relief efforts to help people in California.

Please email Robert Jones

(RJones@firstparishweston.org)

if you are interested in contributing a featured raffle item.

Handcraft Sale - Sunday, March 2 Before and After Worship

Postponed from February 9, **Sewing Seeds of Hope** will hold their sale of handcrafted, one-of-a-kind items made by Afghan women artisans now living in the United States. Selection will include kitchen towels, pot holders, microwave cozies, aprons, table linens, bags for gifts, wine, jewelry, glasses and cosmetics, cheerful pillows and beautiful Afghan girls' dresses.

Cash, check, or Venmo payments are preferred.

If you have fabric, sewing supplies, or an iron you aren't using, they would love to have your donations brought on March 29 for easy delivery to the women!

Seeking Easter Bunnies & Church School Volunteers!

The Committee for Children & Youth Ministry (CCYM) needs open-minded and friendly adults and teens to assist with Sunday morning activities, church school, and/or special events. No special experience required! We especially need volunteers to help with our upcoming Easter programs: pretzel making (Apr. 6), egg decorating and dyeing (Apr. 13) and the Easter Sunday egg hunt (Apr. 20). Look for the sign-up sheet in the Breezeway, chat with CCYM members at Fellowship Hour, or contact CCYM Chair Meghan Scott (meghan.e.scott@gmail.com).