

*My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again
be seen as the last best hope of Earth.*
~ Abraham Lincoln

In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.
~ George Orwell

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.
ORDER OF SERVICE
May 25, 2025 A.D.
Memorial Day Sunday | Fifth Sunday after Easter

PRELUDE: Beautiful River Lani Smith
Prelude in G Major, Op. 37 No. 2, 1 (1934-2015)
(1809-1847)

*CALL TO WORSHIP – *The Idea of Democracy*, Abraham Lincoln (*adapted*), 1854

One: As labor is the common burden of our race, so the effort of some to shift their share of the burden onto the shoulders of others is the great, durable curse of the race.

Many: **As we would not be a slave, so we would not be a master.**

One: This expresses the idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.

Many: **Our reliance is in our love for liberty;
our defense is in the spirit which prizes liberty
as the heritage of all people in all lands everywhere.**

One: Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world?

Many: **Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us dare to do our duty as we understand it.**

*HYMN 532 – “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies” (verses 1-3)

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

*THE PEACE

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 LORD'S PRAYER

**Source of all life and light, we thank you for your love that never lets us go. Thank you for the privilege of gathering in this space with these your people – our neighbors. We do not come merely to open the doors of the church, but we come that our hearts might be opened to you and to one another. As we gather here this day, help us to respond to the call of love – to love our neighbors, and ourselves. We pray for our nation that we be united as a people tied to a single garment of destiny. We pray for those whom we elect to serve all citizens that they may be guided not by ego, politics or money, but by compassion for all people. This we ask in the name of your son Jesus who taught us to pray, saying together:
Our Father . . .**

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR ALL AGES

DISMISSAL TO CHURCH SCHOOL AND MUSIC MEDITATION

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

READINGS: Isaiah 10: 1-4

The American Commitment, by the Rev. A. Powell Davies

ANTHEM: "Et Misericordia" from *Magnificat*, BWV 243

Johann S. Bach
(1685-1750)

SERMON: "On Leadership and Forming a More Perfect Union"

Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER, followed by a moment of silence

ORGAN RESPONSE

OFFERTORY: "I Vow to Thee, My Country"

music by Gustav Holst
(1874-1934)

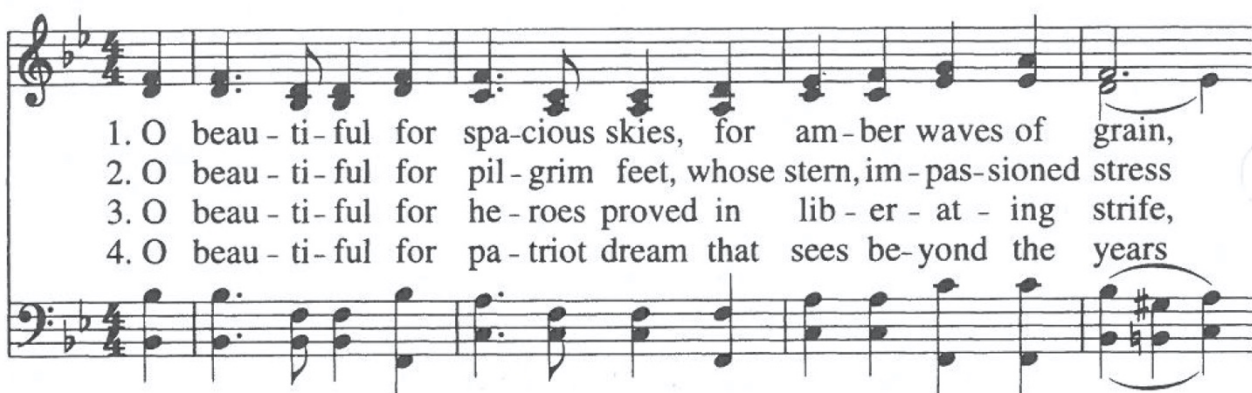
*HYMN 533 – "O God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand"

BENEDICTION

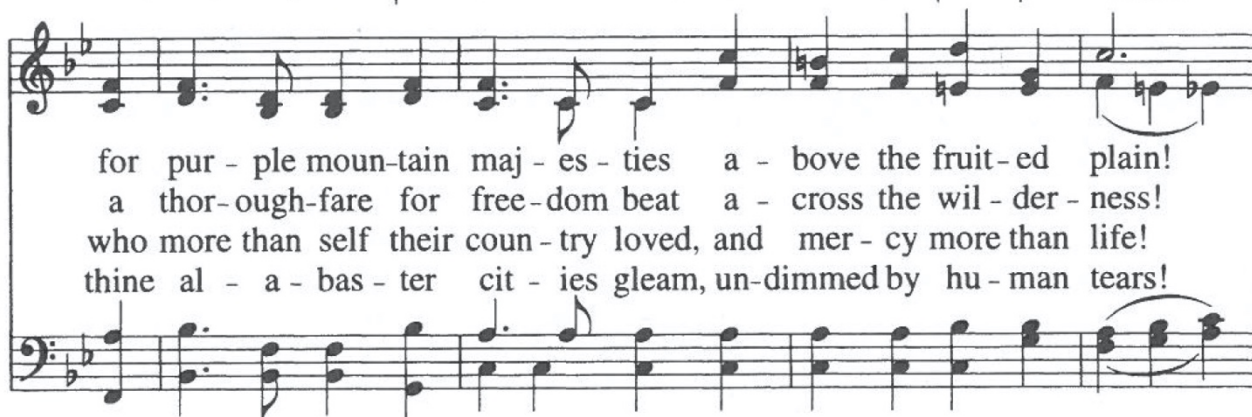
POSTLUDE: Fugue in G Major, Op 37 No. 2,2

Felix Mendelssohn

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies



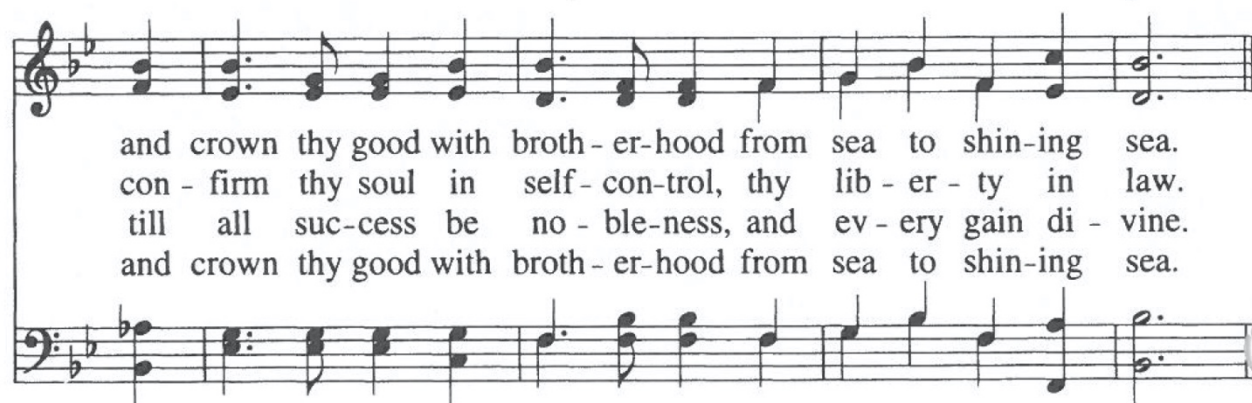
1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
4. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
a thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat a - cross the wil - der - ness!
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed all grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed all grace on thee,



and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.
till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - ery gain di - vine.
and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

WORDS: Katharine Lee Bates, 1893, alt.
MUSIC: Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

MATERNA
CMD

Bates, who headed the English department at Wellesley, wrote this hymn on viewing the sunrise from the summit of Pikes Peak. The 'alabaster cities' is the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

O God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand

1. O God, be - neath thy guid - ing hand
 2. Thou heard'st, well - pleased, the song, the prayer;
 3. Laws, free - dom, truth, and faith in God
 4. And here thy name, O God of love,

those ex - iled pil - grims crossed the sea,
 thy bless - ing came, and still its power
 car - ried those ex - iles o'er the waves,
 their chil - dren's chil - dren shall a - dore,

and when they trod the win - try strand,
 shall on - ward through all a - ges bear
 and where their pil - grim feet have trod,
 till these e - ter - nal hills re - move,

with prayer and psalm they wor - shiped thee.
 the mem - ory of that ho - ly hour.
 the God they trust - ed guards their graves.
 and spring a - dorns the earth no more.

WORDS: Leonard Bacon, 1838, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. John Hatton, c. 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM

Bacon, born at Fort Detroit, Old Northwest Territory, son of missionaries to the Indians, was the epitome of the Congregational social reformer—a tireless worker for ending slavery, but also a reconciler and a diplomatic statesman with inclusive views.

Our Greeter today is Holly Kulow.

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. We hope you'll join us in the Parlor after worship for some light refreshment and fellowship.

STAFF

Minister	Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Minister of Families & Community Outreach:	Rev. Sarah Napoline
Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Robert Jones
Music Director:	TJ Rufo-Curran
Organist:	Geoffrey Wieting
Choir Section Leaders:	Ben Doyle
	Rose Hegele
	Nathan Savant
Parish Administrator:	Betsy Gibson
Sextons	Gary Lubin
	Joe Perriello
Fellowship Hour Coordinator	Paula Leger
Video Production Assistant:	Peter Constable

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, May 26.

WESTON MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY, Monday, May 26, 10:00 am at Weston Town Hall

KNITTERS & STITCHERS will not meet tomorrow. Join them on June 2 at noon in the Parlor.

MAY BRISTOL LODGE SUPPER, Wednesday, May 28 – Thanks to those who have already volunteered elements of the dinner. We still need 1 person to make 20 servings of salad/coleslaw each and someone to donate 30 dinner rolls. If you can help, please email Betsy Gibson (admin@FirstParishWeston.org).

LOUIS D. BROWN PEACE INSTITUTE WALK FOR PEACE – FPCW has raised \$1,695 to date for the Peace Institute. Their campaign will continue through Father's Day in an effort to reach the Institute's goal of \$600K; if you would like to make a gift; go to <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/firstparishweston>

THURSDAY MORNING MEDITATION AT 8:30 AM VIA ZOOM – Newcomers welcome.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87938995674> / Meeting ID: 879 3899 5674

GEOFFREY WIETING ORGAN RECITAL, Thursday, May 29, 5:00 pm, St. John's Episcopal Church, 101 Chapel St., Portsmouth, NH

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY BOOK & DISCUSSION GROUP, Friday, May 30, 4-5:30 pm in the Parlor (go to www.FirstParishWeston.org for more details about this meeting).

SUSAN REEDER MEMORIAL SERVICE, Saturday, May 31, 11:00 am in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FLOWER COMMUNION AND ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC - Sunday, June 1 (rain date: June 8). For the service, bring a flower and take a flower in a custom begun by Rev. Norbert Čapek in Prague in 1923.

After worship, the grill will be back for “burgers and dogs,” provided by CAMP, along with lemonade and ice cream. If you’d like to show off your grilling skills, please contact Cherie Mahan (cheriamourmahan@gmail.com). We ask everyone to sign up for the picnic in the Breezeway (or use link in *e-Post*) and to bring their favorite picnic side, salad, or finger dessert to share.

RETIRED MEN’S LUNCH, Tuesday, June 3, at Noon in the Library or via Zoom:

FPCW BEREAVEMENT GROUP, Tuesday, June 3, at 4:00 pm in the Parlor

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY, June 8, at 10:30 am. We will celebrate another year spent with your children, feature a special youth choir song, and recognize three high school graduates.

SAVE THE DATE FOR BOARD GAME NIGHT, June 13, 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

2025 QUESTION BOX SERMON SUNDAY, June 15, at 10:30 am. Here’s your chance to ask Jeff about any subject that you would like to see addressed from the pulpit. Look for the Question Box in the Breezeway or email him at **jeffbarzsnell@FirstParishWeston.org**