

*Faith is not the clinging to a shrine
but an endless pilgrimage of the heart.*
~ Abraham Joshua Heschel

The longest journey is the journey inwards.
~ Dag Hammarskjöld

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.
ORDER OF SERVICE
September 14, 2025 A.D.

PRELUDE:

Six Short Pieces

III Aria

VI Quasi lento: teneramente

Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND CHALICE LIGHTING

One: We come together this morning seeking a meaning and
presence beyond our narrow selves,

All: **We come together to rediscover a reality that binds us in
compassion, love and understanding to other human
beings, and to the interdependent web of all living
things.**

One: May our hearts and minds be opened this day to the power
and the insight that weaves together the scattered threads of
our experience.

All: **May we remember and be inspired by the Wholeness –
and the Holiness – of which we are a part.**

*OPENING HYMN 360 – “Here We Have Gathered”

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 LORD’S PRAYER

God of grace, we need your strength in our weakness. We confess that we can be judgmental and overly-critical of our neighbors, family, and friends. We project our own shortcomings on others in order to deflect attention from our mistakes. We withhold forgiveness and mercy from those who wrong us at the same time we seek it for the wrongs we have done. Even still, we struggle to forgive ourselves. You have shown us the better way. Help us to follow your path –receiving and extending forgiveness in a world in need of grace. In your mercy, hear our prayer, and help us to forgive as you forgive. This we ask in the name of your servant Jesus, who taught us to pray saying, Our Father...

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

Chet & Carol Cekala

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

PULPIT EDITORIAL

Nancy Piedra and Mike Mordas
Volunteer Mentors with Partakers prison ministry

MUSIC MEDITATION

Spirit of Life

READING

ANTHEM:

Esto Les Digo

Kinley Lange
(b. 1950)

Where two or three are gathered in My name, there will I be also.
(Matthew 18: 19-20)

SERMON: “On Paths that Lead to Peace”

Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

MUSIC RESPONSE

OFFERTORY:

An American Folk Hymn of Praise

Austin C. Lovelace
(1919-2010)

*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 504 – “God of Justice, God of Mercy” (vs 1, 2, & 5)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

Lord God, Now Be Glorified

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

~

Our Greeter this morning is Beanie Marvel.

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 outside after worship for games, fellowship and light refreshment.

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:	Sara DeLong
Bookkeeper:	Betsy Gibson
Sextons:	Will Coronado, Gary Lubin
Fellowship Hour Coordinator:	Paula Leger
AV Production Assistant:	Peter Constable

349 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA 02493

781.893.7798

info@FirstParishWeston.org

www.firstparishweston.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY- PARTAKERS “COLLEGE BEHIND BARS” PULPIT EDITORIAL – This morning we will hear from two of our current volunteers with the Partakers, a prison outreach organization. Through a unique mentoring model, Partakers supports the education and advancement of incarcerated women and men and returning citizens. Within this transformative experience Partakers bridges the divide that separates people impacted by incarceration with those outside of the carceral system. Through its College Behind Bars Mentoring Program, Partakers provides vital mentoring support to incarcerated students. Partakers Mentors not only help to enhance skills critical to completing academic and degree programs, but also provide life-changing support networks while building long-term vital and trusting personal relationships. Members of First Parish have served as mentors periodically for the last 15 years. For more information, go to www.partakers.org

Join us for lawn games during fellowship hour after worship, weather permitting. If games are not your style, we hope you will enjoy some light refreshments with us regardless.

STANDING COMMITTEE – Our governing body, The Standing Committee meets this Tuesday evening at 7:30pm in the Parlor and on Zoom. To join the meeting via Zoom go to **Zoom.us/join** and enter Meeting ID: **965 9504 7535**

KNITTERS AND STITCHERS – Handcrafters unite! The group meets weekly in the Parlor Mondays at noon.

WEEKLY MORNING MEDITATION, THURSDAYS AT 8:30 AM – Join us on Zoom; go to: **Zoom.us/join** and enter Meeting ID: **8840 8862 130**

CHOIR POTLUCK SUPPER – On Thursday, September 18, at 6PM, there will be a potluck supper for members of the choir in the Church Hall. Come celebrate a new Church season with us!

COMMUNITY YOGA FLOW CLASS – Friday, September 18th at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. This all-levels Vinyasa Flow class covers the basics, with options to modify toward an advanced practice. All are welcome!

NEW EXHIBIT IN THE MARY JO RINES GALLERY: COMING SOON! – On view September 21 - November 17, *Drawn to Water* by Diane Charyk Norris. Meet the artist in the Gallery after worship Sunday, September 28th.

HOUSING FORUM SPONSORED BY ENGAGE WESTON – Tuesday, September 23rd at 7 pm in the Parlor Join us for a housing-focused introductory forum on the MBTA Communities Act.

METROWEST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS WEBINAR – Wednesday, September 24th at 7 pm, online only. Angie Alberto Escobar guest speaking on the benefits of geothermal energy. Register for the link to attend at MetrowestClimateSolutions.org

BRISTOL LODGE MEAL- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – For our next dinner on Wednesday, September 24th, we will meet in the kitchen from 12-2:30 pm to prepare Chicken Fajitas with fixings, Chopped Veggie Salad, Cookies or Bars, Fruit and Water. For more info, email the office admin@FirstParishWeston.org

ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE – Sunday, October 5 at 10:30 am. Bring your pet to church or afterwards for a blessing.

DINNER CONNECTIONS – Sign up in the breezeway by October 19th to connect with other First Parish attendees over dinner once a month in groups of 6-10 people.

Here We Have Gathered

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1. Here we have gath - ered, gath - ered side by side;
 2. Here we have gath - ered, called to cel - e - brate
 3. Life has its bat - tles, sor - rows, and re - gret:

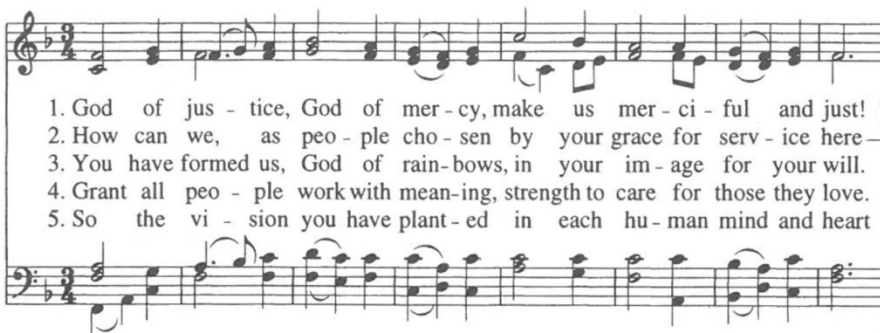
cir - cle of kin - ship, come and step in - side!
 days of our life - time, mat - ters small and great:
 but in the shad - ows, let us not for - get:

May all who seek here find a kind - ly
 we of all a - ges, wom - en, chil - dren,
 we who now gath - er know each oth - er's


word; may all who speak here
 men, in - fants and sa - ges,
 pain; kind - ness can heal us:

feel they have been heard. Sing now to -
 shar - ing what we can. Sing now to -
 as we give, we gain. Sing now in

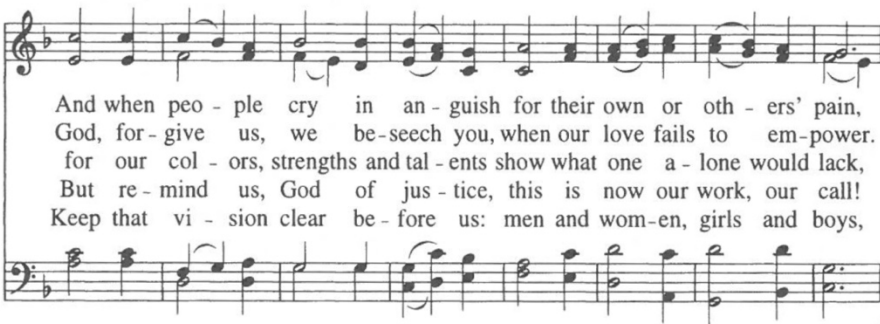
geth - er this, our hearts' own song.
 geth - er this, our hearts' own song.
 friend - ship this, our hearts' own song.



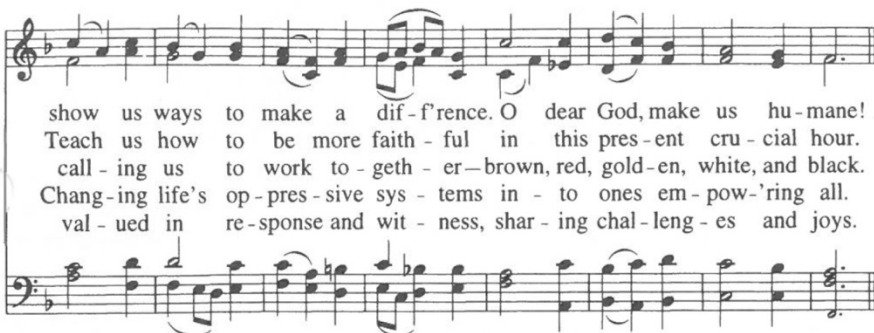
1. God of jus - tice, God of mer - cy, make us mer - ci - ful and just!
 2. How can we, as peo - ple cho - sen by your grace for serv - ice here —
 3. You have formed us, God of rain - bows, in your im - age for your will.
 4. Grant all peo - ple work with mean - ing, strength to care for those they love.
 5. So the vi - sion you have plant - ed in each hu - man mind and heart



Help us see all your cre - a - tion as from you a sa - cred trust.
 how en - dure an - oth - er's hard - ship with - out of - fer - ing hope or cheer?
 See - ing our di - verse re - flec - tions, trust - ing you, we mar - vel still;
 Food for ta - ble, truth for tell - ing, chal - leng - es to rise a - bove.
 now be - comes the spark of ac - tion call - ing us to do our part.



And when peo - ple cry in an - guish for their own or oth - ers' pain,
 God, for - give us, we be - seech you, when our love fails to em - power.
 for our col - ors, strengths and tal - ents show what one a - lone would lack,
 But re - mind us, God of jus - tice, this is now our work, our call!
 Keep that vi - sion clear be - fore us: men and wom - en, girls and boys,



show us ways to make a dif - f' - rence. O dear God, make us hu - mane!
 Teach us how to be more faith - ful in this pres - ent cru - cial hour.
 call - ing us to work to - geth - er — brown, red, gold - en, white, and black.
 Chang - ing life's op - pres - sive sys - tems in - to ones em - pow - 'ring all.
 val - ued in re - sponse and wit - ness, shar - ing chal - leng - es and joys.