

*Each one of us matters, has a role to play, and makes a difference. Each one of us must take responsibility for our own lives, and above all, show respect and love for living things around us, especially each other.”*  
~ Jane Goodall, “Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey”

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.  
ORDER OF SERVICE  
October 5, 2025 A.D.  
Blessing of the Animals

PRELUDE:

*Les Rats Quadrilles (5)*  
*The Cats Quadrilles (4)*

Gervasius Redler (fl. 1853-68)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The earth is good!

**All: All the time!**

One: All the time!

**All: The earth is good! (2x)**

\*OPENING HYMN 63 – “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Minister: The Peace of God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

EXCHANGE OF THE 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

**Giver and Source of Life and Love, as we gather this day we are grateful for the bonds we share: with all creatures, with this community, and with you. Remind us that we are just one part of your larger creation. We are one small and recent story in the larger saga of life on this small, beautiful planet, our only home. As we celebrate the animals in our lives this day, help us to find ways to live more in harmony with other species and with one another. Inspired by your servant Francis from long ago, may we too remember our kinship with Brother Sun, Sister Moon and all living things. This we ask in the spirit of your son Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying: Our Father ...**

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

Chester Kulow and his human family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PULPIT EDITORIAL

Chloe-Rose Crouch

Executive Director of the Community Day Center of Waltham

ANTHEM:

*Ose Shalom*

John Leavitt (b. 1956)

*The One who makes peace in the heavens, may He make peace for us,  
and for all Israel, and let us say, let us say Amen.*

READING: Psalm 104, excerpts

OFFERTORY:

*"Prayer" from Come From Away*

Irene Sankoff and David Hein

\*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.**

REFLECTION

*Thoughts on the Passing of Jane Goodall*

MUSIC MEDITATION

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*  
Prayer of St. Francis

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Unison Response:

**We bless our fellow creatures, the \_\_\_\_\_**  
(fill in name of animals)

*...We bless our fellow creatures, the dogs.*  
*...We bless our fellow creatures, the cats.*  
*...We bless our fellow creatures, the farm animals.*  
*...We bless our fellow creatures, the birds.*  
*...We bless our fellow creatures, the small animals.*  
*...We bless our fellow creatures, the stuffed animals.*  
*...We bless our fellow creatures, the snakes.*  
*...We bless our fellow creatures, the fish.*  
*...We bless all creatures of the earth,*  
*our brothers and sisters and siblings in the web of life.*

\*HYMN 51 – “All Creatures of our God, Now Sing” (vs 1, 2 & 5)

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

Organ Concerto #13  
“The Cuckoo & the Nightingale”  
*I. Allegro*

GF Handel (1685-1759)  
(arr. E. Power Biggs)

Our Greeter this morning is Caroline Marple.

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 Parish Hall after worship for some light refreshment and fellowship.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW EXHIBIT IN THE MARY JO RINES GALLERY– On view until November 17, *Drawn to Water* by Diane Charyk Norris.

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

RETIRED MEN'S LUNCH – Tuesday, October 7, at Noon in the Library or via Zoom. Pack or pick up your favorite to-go lunch and join Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell and others for lively conversation. Coffee and cookies provided. Join us on Zoom; go to: **Zoom.us/join** and enter Meeting ID: **8944 2282 318**

BEREAVEMENT GROUP –Tuesday, October 7 at 4:00pm in the Parlor. Wherever you are on the journey that is grief, we welcome you to join Jeff Barz-Snell and others for supportive conversation.

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

CHOIR REHEARSAL – Choir has resumed weekly Thursday evening rehearsals, 7:30 - 9:00pm. If interested, please contact Music Director TJ Rufo-Curran at [tjrufo@FirstParishWeston.org](mailto:tjrufo@FirstParishWeston.org).

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

DIAPER DRIVE – The Outreach Committee is teaming with A Place to Turn, September 21-October 19: Donate in the marked bins in the breezeway or the vestibule outside the church offices.

CELEBRATING BETSY’S 22 YEARS AS OUR ADMINISTRATOR – Please join us for a special fellowship hour and reception on **Sunday, Oct. 19** in honor of Betsy Gibson, who is stepping down as administrator this month and into the position of part-time bookkeeper.

BRISTOL LODGE – Next month’s menu – to be served on **Wednesday, October 22nd** – is Meatloaf. Contact Ellen Touart-Grob at 781-640-4793 or [etouartgrob@gmail.com](mailto:etouartgrob@gmail.com) for more details or to volunteer.