

Preach the Gospel at all times - if necessary use words.
~ Francis of Assisi (attributed)

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.
ORDER OF SERVICE
October 12, 2025 A.D.
The 18th Sunday after Pentecost / World Communion Sunday

PRELUDES

Pavana—The Earle of Salisbury

William Byrd (1540-1623)

Galiardo

Prelude in G minor

Arthur H. Bird (1856-1923)

CALL TO WORSHIP: by the Rev. Dr. Reinhold Neibuhr

One: Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime;

Many: **therefore we must be saved by hope.**

One: Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history;

Many: **therefore we must be saved by faith.**

One: Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;

Many: **therefore we are saved by love.**

One: No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint.

Many: **Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love, which is forgiveness.**

*HYMN 111 – “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

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

**O God of light eternal, in whose love and power the world
took shape, and we were born, and our lives are lived,
and we die: grant us this day that silence of the heart in
which we can recall that we are never separated from the
love that created us, nor from the love that surrounds
us. Bring us now into thy presence, and let us be
strengthened there. Amen.**

CHALICE LIGHTING

Jim and Jill Metcalf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR ALL AGES

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: Matthew 25:15-30

OFFERTORY
O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

REFLECTION: "Communion in an Uncertain World" Rev. Jeff Barz-Snell

COMMUNION RITUAL

Note: First Parish Weston has a practice of hospitality in all our rituals. If you would like to participate in our communion service, you are welcome to do so. You are also welcome to come forward and simply receive a blessing. For those who wish to participate, we will be moving "counter-clockwise" in a circle from your seats. Please approach "on the right" and receive the gift of bread first, and then move to the left to receive the gift of wine, before returning to your seat.

The prophet Jesus, who was born in Nazareth of Judea, and who was crucified and died outside the walls of Jerusalem in a final witness to his faith, and in the hope of bringing closer that final harmony of all things with the Divine (which he called "the Kingdom of God"), left no written record of his preaching. His sayings were preserved among his followers and among the common people and were finally written down in narrative versions of his life and message called Gospels, or "Good News."

Minister:

From the Gospel according to Matthew we have these words:

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

We are not gathered here today because we have dared give up our life to live in faith, or because we ever willingly take up the crosses we bear in order to follow Jesus. We are here because his words and his example are an inspiration in our lives. Thus, like the millions of

women and men who have preceded us, we find in remembering him an inducement to a greater sense of connectedness with All That Is, a feeling nearer akin to wholeness than we are often privileged to enjoy, and a renewed hope in the possibilities of a larger fellowship and a more caring community.

Let us join in saying together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

All peoples through all time have considered with wonder and awe the mystery of life and growth and have found symbols to express our reverence for the forces of life and ways to celebrate our dependence on the nurturing earth. Bread and wine are such symbols, and Communion is a way of celebrating both the gifts we are given and the creativity we can bring to using them.

Jesus and his followers shared bread and wine at their last meal together,

Jesus used the bread and the wine as symbols of the liberation that his own sacrifice would mean to those who understood it. He took bread, and he poured wine, and he said

“This do in remembrance of me.”

Let us break bread together and share the cup of wine in remembrance of Jesus, as he asked.

Let us remember also all those men and women who toil in all the many kinds of fields and vineyards, who labor and are heavy laden, and be reminded that these elements need to be for us symbols of liberation.

Let us remember that what we do here is a ritual act of sharing, and that in coming together we join with our sisters and brothers of every race and faith, for we all seek meaning in the midst of mystery, and we all find that which is worthy of our profoundest awe. We call it many names, but the sense that we are part of an inconceivably vaster whole is a feeling we all share.

In a moment of quiet reflection, I now invite us to pause for a moment to offer a prayer of concern or gratitude for someone or something that is on our hearts and minds this morning. **Amen.**

Distribution of the Elements:

Dear friends, the same night in which he was betrayed, we are told that Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: "This is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner, he also took a cup when he supped, saying, this is the new testament in my blood. This do ye, as oft as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*We invite you to come forward for the elements
as the choir sings the anthem.*

ANTHEM
Notre père

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

HYMN 311 – "Let Us Break Bread Together"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, Gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us your presence. Strengthen our resolve to do your will in this beautiful but challenging life, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the subtle power of your presence and spirit. Amen.

*HYMN 220– “Breathe on me, Breath of God”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cornet Voluntary

William Walond (1725-1770)

Flowers today are given in loving memory of Cameron (Cam) Peters.

Our Greeter this morning is Alice Moylan.

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.

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, Lindsey Weissman

Parish Administrator:

Sara DeLong

Bookkeeper:

Betsy Gibson

Sexton:

Gary Lubin

Fellowship Hour Coordinator:

Paula Leger

AV Production Assistant:

Peter Constable

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.

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 –Thursday evening rehearsals, 7:30 - 9:00pm. If interested, contact Music Director TJ Rufo-Curran at tjruf@FirstParishWeston.org.

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.

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 – This month’s menu – to be served on **Wednesday, October 22nd** – is Meatloaf. Contact Ellen Touart-Grob at 781-640-4793 or etouartgrob@gmail.com for more details or to volunteer.

HARVEST FEST & TRUNK OR TREAT – Sunday, October 26, at 11:45am after worship. Join us for an afternoon of “trick or treat”ing for our younger community members. Costumes encouraged- All are welcome!

WALLET-FRIENDLY WINE CHALLENGE – Fri. November 7 at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Enjoy hors d’oeuvres and raffle prizes for a good cause. Email rjones@FirstParishWeston.org with questions or to RSVP.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST –Sunday, November 23 at 9:30am in the Hall. Pancakes, eggs, bacon, and sausages to enjoy with OJ, coffee, and tea served by our youth group. Email admin@FirstParishWeston.org to volunteer.