

*"Music expresses that which cannot be said and
on which it is impossible to be silent."*

~ Victor Hugo

"Peace is not only better than war, but infinitely more arduous."

~ George Bernard Shaw

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON, U.U.

ORDER OF SERVICE

December 7, 2025 A.D.

2ns Sunday in Advent & All Music Sunday

PRELUDE:

Chorale harmonization & prelude:

We Christian folk, BWV 1090

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

Chorale harmonization & prelude:

The day, so rich in joy, BWV 719

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*George Eliot, adapted*)

One: O may I join the choir invisible
Of those immortal dead who live again
In minds made better by their presence:

Many: **O May we live
In pulses stirred to generosity,
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn
For miserable aims that end with self,**

One: O May we live in thoughts sublime
that pierce the night like stars,
And with their mild persistence
urge humanity's search to vaster issues.

Many: **So to live is heaven:
To make undying music
which is the gladness of the world!**

*OPENING HYMN 33 – "When in Our Music God is Glorified"

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

**Source of Light and Life, fashion us into instruments of your peace.
Enable us to look within ourselves, to make straight our crooked hearts
and to patiently and lovingly await changes in ourselves and others. As
you gather us tenderly, and hold us close, that may we also show that
same compassion to the world. Fill our hearts with your peace, and our
lives with your mercy, that these may flow from our lives into our
world. This we ask in the name of your servant Jesus, who taught us to
pray, saying together: Our Father...**

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

Richard Weeks

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Rev. Sarah Napoline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION

READING

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE:

**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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Messe no. 2 in G-Dur, D. 167

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

I. Kyrie, featuring Ms. Hegele

II. Gloria, featuring Ms. Hegele and Mr. Bell

III. Credo

IV. Sanctus

V. Benedictus, featuring Ms. Hegele, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Bell

VI. Agnus Dei, featuring Ms. Hegele and Mr. Bell

*HYMN 7 – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

2 chorale harmonizations & prelude:

J. S. Bach

Praise God, ye Christians, one and all, BWV 609

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of
Elizabeth and Irving Wolf by their family.

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.

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

Sextons:

Will Coronado, Gary Lubin

Fellowship Hour Coordinator:

Paula Leger

AV Production Assistant:

Peter Constable

Personnel

TJ Rufo-Curran, *Conductor*
Rose Hegele, *Soprano*
Ben Doyle, *Tenor*
Thaddeus Bell, *Baritone*

Geoffrey Wieting, *Organ*
Alan Hawryluk, *Violin I*
Sophia Bernitz, *Violin II*
Mary Weeks, *Viola*
Timothy Paek, *Cello*

Composer Biography

Franz Schubert was born on January 31, 1797 in Himmelfortgrund, Austria, the fourth of five children in a musical family. His father and older brother were his first music teachers, and he played viola in the Schubert family string quartet. In 1808, he enrolled at the *Stadtkonvikt* in hopes of singing at the chapel of the Imperial Court. During his four years at the school, he studied under imperial court organist Wenzel Ruzicka and composer Antonio Salieri. Schubert was a talented and successful student at the school; however, he was forced to leave once his voice broke and ultimately took a teaching job in his father's school. It was during this time that Schubert wrote some of his most famous works, including his first three mass settings. Though he suffered periods of personal and financial setback, his music was incredibly popular: there were many intimate concerts of his music called *Schubertiaden* which took place in homes of the Viennese elite. His only public concert took place in Vienna on March 26, 1828, and was considered both an artistic and financial success. Unfortunately, Schubert contracted typhoid fever later that year and died on November 19, 1828 in Vienna.

Program Notes

Schubert wrote the Mass in G Major during his first “burst” of composing in 1815, while working as a teacher in his father's school, though it was not published until 1846 (almost twenty years following his death). This “burst” also brought us some of Schubert's more famous pieces, including two symphonies and 145 *lieder* (including both *Gretchen am Spinnrade* and *Erlkönig*). The mass was originally scored for organ and string orchestra, as it will be performed this morning, although Schubert later wrote parts for trumpet and timpani and his brother Ferdinand wrote additional parts for woodwinds and brass. While this is not one of Schubert's best-known works, the beauty of this piece is in its simplicity: there are no solo arias, and the harmonic structure of the piece alternates between G major and D major. The six movements follow the sections of the Ordinary, and the mass was written to be used as a part of regular church services.



EMILY GREENE BALCH (1867-1961)

Born in Jamaica Plain and raised in the First Parish Unitarian Church of Jamaica Plain, Greene was the third woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. She donated her share of the prize money to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF.) Her acceptance speech highlighted the issues of nationalism and efforts for international peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY! IN THE MARY JO RINES GALLERY –Meet current gallery artist, Rena Shear, and learn more about her work after worship and at a special reception from 2-4pm as well.

NEWCOMERS' RECEPTION, TODAY– Join us for a brief reception and a nosh after worship in the parlor. Learn more about our community and history.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! –Interested in **ushering on Christmas Eve**? Please contact the office at admin@firstparishweston.org

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES OF LESSONS AND CAROLS, Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Please register for your preferred service:

- 4:00 pm service: **[fpcw-christmas2025-4pm.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fpcw-christmas2025-4pm-tickets-755555555555)**
- 6:00 pm service: **[fpcw-christmas2025-6pm.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fpcw-christmas2025-6pm-tickets-755555555555)**

DEDICATE A CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA – **Remember loved ones** at Christmas time with a donation toward plants and wreaths by **Dec. 17**. Include a dedication which will be printed in the Order of service on Dec. 21 and also Christmas Eve. Email Lynn Taff for more information or with your dedication LRT.1@comcast.net

YOUTH GROUP SHOE DRIVE – Now-January 25 the youth group is collecting new and **clean/gently used shoes** (all sizes) to give to Ugandan students. Bring your contribution to the bin by the FP Library.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP – Will meet Tuesday, December 9 at 4:00pm in the Parlor.
All walking the path of grief are welcome.

A CHRISTMAS CHARITY CHALLENGE – Make a donation to The Greater Boston Food Bank, The Waltham Boys & Girls Club, The Community Day Center of Waltham, or The Bristol Lodge and have it matched up to \$1,000 (\$15K all together!) by an anonymous FP donor. Make your gift payable to “First Parish Church in Weston” and note the charity (ies) above that you wish to support.

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

CHOIR REHEARSAL – Choir rehearses Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00pm. **Come sing with us!** Please contact Music Director TJ Rufo-Curran at tjruf@FirstParishWeston.org.

2025 & 2026 STEWARDSHIP – All gifts to First Parish received in hand or postmarked by December 31 are deductible in the 2025 tax year, regardless of when they are deposited in the church account. 2025 tax statements will be mailed at the end of January. We thank all who have already made a commitment to support First Parish financially in 2026 and hope to hear from all who received the Campaign letter.

STAFF AND COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS - It soon will be time to submit annual reports to be published in First Parish’s *News & Views* in advance of the 2026 Budget Hearing on Sunday, Jan. 25, and the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 1. Next week, Sara DeLong will be sending out copies of last year’s reports to assist in the writing of the new ones. Deadline for submission is Friday, Jan. 16 (in advance of MLK, Jr. Day).

FAMILY DINNER CONNECTIONS – Family Dinner Connections features **kid-friendly** menus and bedtime friendly hours. Contact Kate Houston (knaszradi@gmail.com) and Jess Catlin (tajhilliard@gmail.com) to learn more.

MITTEN TREE – Nov 30 – Dec 19 We’ll have **wishes from families** at the Waltham Boys and Girls Club, along with gift card wishes from The Second Step.