

September 13, 2020
Order of Service
Our Lives Flow On



Gathering Bell

Introit

Peace Like Welcome Rain (Mark Patterson) Elizabeth McIntire
and Keith Kirchoff, Music Director

*Let peace, like welcome rain,
flow freely down to heal this day parched land.*

*Come soothe the summer's wounded soul
and flood the burning fumes we hold with truth and hope,
And deeper understanding.*

*Let all of us be kindled here;
Let truth, not anger, make us strong.
Let word and deed be fed by care,
For the same needs bind us all.*

*Let courage rise, let hearts be bold,
Let words of hatred speak no more;
Then, how the rains of peace
will come with life and strength for the dreams we've begun*

O give us hope.

Words of Welcome Jud Wolfskill, Ministerial Intern

Call to Worship Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood, Senior Minister

*Opening Hymn: *Windeyaho* First Parish Virtual Band

Unison Chalice Lighting Jud Wolfskill

Nos entregamos y nos comprometemos a caminar juntos como congregación, prometiendo con mucha fe cuidarnos mutuamente y deleitarnos en el amor que permanecerá entre nosotros.

We give ourselves one unto another, covenanting to walk together as a congregation, promising faithfully to watch over one another, and to delight for love to abide in our midst. 1717 Covenant (adapted)

Playing in Water: A Prayer and Meditation Honoring Children, Parents and Teachers

Laci Adams, Director of Religious Exploration
and Jud Wolfskill

Anthem *Wade in the Water* Adrian Jones

Candles of Peace, Joys & Concerns Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood

Offering Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood

Please give as generously as you can to First Parish in Brookline by clicking [here](#) or by texting your donation dollar amount to (617) 996-8956. If you would like to give toward your pledge, text you can text the dollar amount plus the word pledge.

Offertory *Swimming to the Other Side* (Pat Humphries) Emily Wheeler

*We are living neath the Great Big Dipper
We are washed by the very same rain
We are swimming in the stream together some in power and some in pain
We can worship this ground we walk on cherishing the beings that we live beside
Loving spirits will lives forever we're all swimming to the other side
I am alone and I am searching
Hungering for answers in my time
I am balanced at the brink of wisdom
I'm impatient to receive a sign
I move forward with my senses open
Imperfection it be my crime*

*In humanity I will listen
We're all swimming to the other side*

*We are living neath the Great Big Dipper
We are washed by the very same rain
We are swimming in the stream together some in power and some in pain
We can worship this ground we walk on cherishing the beings that we live beside
Loving spirits will live forever we're all swimming to the other side
On this journey through thoughts and feeling
Finding intuition, my head my heart
I am gathering the tools together
I'm preparing to do my part
All of those who have come before me band together and be my guide
Loving lessons that I will follow*

*We are living neath the Great Big Dipper
We are washed by the very same rain
We are swimming in the stream together some in power and some in pain
We can worship this ground we walk on cherishing the beings that we live beside
Loving spirits will live forever we're all swimming to the other side
When we get there we'll discover all of the gifts we were given to share
Have been with us since life's beginning and we never noticed they were there
We can balance at the brink of wisdom
Never recognizing we've arrived
We're all swimming to the other side*

*We are living neath the Great Big Dipper
We are washed by the very same rain
We are swimming in the stream together some in power and some in pain
We can worship this ground we walk on cherishing the beings that we live beside
Loving spirits will live forever we're all swimming to the other side
Loving spirits will live forever we're all swimming to the other side*

Blessing of the Gifts

Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood

Reading

Wash Your Hands (Dory Midnight)

Jud Wolfskill
and Laci Adams

Water Blessing Ritual

Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood

***Hymn of Preparation**

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

Keith Kirchoff

*My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.*

It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing!

*What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.
What though the darkness 'round me close, song in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love prevails in heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing!*

*When tyrants tremble as they hear the bells of freedom ringing,
when friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing!
To prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;
when friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing!*

Sermon

Though the Tempest 'Round Us Roars

Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood

*Closing Hymn

Blue Boat Home

Keith Kirchoff

*Though below me I feel no motion
Standing on these mountains and plains
Far away from the rolling ocean
Still my dry land heart can say
I've been sailing all my life now
Never harbor nor port have I known
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the Earth is my blue boat home*

*Sun, my sail and moon, my rudder
As I ply the starry sea
Leaning over the edge in wonder
Casting questions into the deep
Drifting here with my ship's companions
All we kindred pilgrim souls
Making our way by the lights of the heavens
In our beautiful blue boat home*

*I give thanks to the waves upholding me
Hail the great winds urging me on
Greet the infinite sea before me
Sing the sky my sailor's song
I was born upon the fathoms
Never harbor or port have I known
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the Earth is my blue boat home
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the Earth is my blue boat home*

Extinguishing the Chalice

Jud Wolfskill

Unison Affirmation

*We extinguish this flame and not the light of truth,
The warmth of community or the fire of commitment.
These we carry with us and offer as gifts onto the world.*

Benediction

Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood

Go Out And Love the World

Keith Kirchoff

*Go out and love the world!
Vá e ame o mundo!
¡Vayan a amar al mundo!
Ale e renmen tut moon! (2x)*

Postlude

Keith Kirchoff

Today at First Parish

Please join us for Virtual Coffee Hour immediately following the service at <https://zoom.us/j/524871087>. We will share our Candles of Joys and Concerns during Coffee Hour. You can also access this at our website www.firstparishinbrookline.org if you have any challenges.

Our Book Club will meet via Zoom at 7:30pm to discuss Chloe Benjamin's *The Immortalists*. Please reach out to [Julie Horvath](#) with questions.

Announcements

Update on Health, Safety, and Our Worshiping Community

Dear Beloved Members and Friends of First Parish in Brookline,

Our Reopening Planning Group (RPG) met over the summer to address urgent operational questions and organize ourselves into specialty teams. As the new church year begins, we want to update you on our current thinking regarding our plans for the health and safety of our congregation.

This continues to be a challenging time for all of us. As the pandemic goes on, COVID safety has become an increasingly confusing and divisive topic. With some folks in our country refusing to take any precautions at all, and others still avoiding other people

at all costs, there is a wide spectrum of behavior. We are committed to having these values guide us forward.

1. Belonging: We cannot gather in ways that exclude people.

Our UU values call us to equitable and compassionate behaviors and toward inclusion and fairness. For worship and any other large gatherings, we will remain a virtual congregation, for the time being. We strongly encourage and support small group ministries, committees and other groups to also choose virtual gatherings over those held in-person, especially when in-person meetings would exclude vulnerable people in our community.

2. Safety: The RPG is working to create evidence-based guidelines for building use by small groups in the winter. Small groups can elect to meet outdoors through October. If we choose to gather in smaller groups, we will meet outdoors and use social distancing and masks per CDC and church guidelines. If a group of First Parish members feels safe gathering outdoors using social distancing and masks - and can be inclusive of all in that group - then we will feel free to do so with these safety practices in place. (Examples might include a committee having a backyard meeting or a small group holding a BYO picnic in front of church.) In these events, we ask that the community takes care to balance our need for connection with sound public health practices, knowing that both matter.

Guidelines for small groups renting the building have been developed by the RPG, with full consideration to our safety protocols.

3. Listening: We will stay flexible and listen to your needs and concerns.

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic is shifting and changing. Our Reopening Planning Group (RPG) will continue to listen to your thoughts and needs and will make and change decisions as necessary, and keep you informed as we do. Please contact us at rpg@firstparishinbrookline.org with any suggestions or concerns. Our goal is to continue to reflect the values and mission of First Parish in Brookline in all we do and say.

This is all very hard, dear friends. We miss the hugs, the live music and singing, the sound of children in our hallways, the clasping of hands in solidarity. Joy does not transmit as easily through computer screens or phone lines. And we are a people of resilience and justice, love and strength. We will continue. Know that we are here, and not just in spirit. Keep staying safe and taking care of each other.

In loving community,

Reopening Planning Group Tri-Chairs:

Susan Larrabee

Bob Williamson

Rev. Lisa

**Racial and Immigration Justice: Take Action This Week -
Updated every Monday on our First Parish in Brookline website**

With social distancing and staying inside, you might wonder what you can do for the world right now. The Racial Justice Action Committee offers ideas to help FPB members increase our collective impact in the critical work of racial and immigration justice and, at the same time, build supportive community. We encourage you to [save this link](#) and check it each week. This is still being updated regularly!

For more information, contact Martha Leader or Almas Dossa.

Virtual Phone Banking for Justice

NEW TIME: Thursdays from 1:00 - 2:00pm

The best, most effective, most empowering, most humanizing, and most joyful way to fight back against injustice is in community with one another. Join us!

We're identifying a set of urgent actions government officials and others can take now related to key First Parish priorities such as immigration justice, racial justice, and housing justice. We're organizing them into a simple, straightforward one-hour action plan that we can all do together on Thursday afternoons.

From the safety of our own homes, we're reaching out to legislators and other public officials by phone and email. We use talking points our organizers have developed in advance. We join through video conferencing so we can center ourselves and encourage each other. For those who are new, we offer a Zoom breakout space to orient and welcome you.

So far, we've had 8-12 participants each week and positive comments like: "I don't usually like phone calls, but this is much easier!" "It's so nice to do this with the support of the group!" "I'll do this again!"

We join together online every Thursday afternoon from 1:00-2:00. And if you're not free on a given Thursday to join us, join us online the next week!

Interested? Please sign up here: <https://form.jotform.com/200856071147149>

Have questions? Ask here: <https://form.jotform.com/200856071147149>

OR email Martha Leader: mleader@rcn.com

All are welcome!