First Parish in Brookline
November 8, 2020
Doing the Work of Hope

Gathering Bell

Introit  We Are (Ysaye M. Barnwell)  Adrian Jones

*Opening Hymn:  Comfort Me

Comfort me, comfort me, comfort me, oh my soul.
Comfort me, comfort me, comfort me, oh my soul.

Sing with me, sing with me, sing with me, oh my soul.
Sing with me, sing with me, sing with me, oh my soul.
Unison Chalice Lighting and Candles of Peace and Hope
Susan and Jud Wolfskill, Ministerial Intern

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)

Candles of Joy and Concern
Rev. Lisa and Jud

Spoken Prayer and Silent Meditation
Rev. Lisa

Anthem
Small Axe (Bob Marley)
Aaron Newell, voice;
Keith Kirchoff, prepared piano

Why boasteth thyself
Oh, evil men
Playing smart
And not being clever?
I said, you're working iniquity
To achieve vanity (if a-so a-so)
But the goodness of Jah, Jah
I-dureth for-I-ver

So if you are the big tree
We are the small axe
Ready to cut you down (well sharp)
To cut you down

These are the words
Of my master, keep on tellin’ me
No weak heart
Shall prosper
And whosoever diggeth a pit
Shall fall in it, fall in it
And whosoever diggeth a pit
Shall fall in it (... fall in it)

If you are the big tree, let me tell you that
We are the small axe, sharp and ready
Ready to cut you down (well sharp)
To cut you down

(To cut you down)

(To cut you down)

These are the words
Of my master, tellin' me that
No weak heart
Shall prosper
And whosoever diggeth a pit
Shall fall in it, uh, bury in it
And whosoever diggeth a pit
Shall bury in it, uh (… bury in it)

If you are the big, big tree
We are the small axe
Ready to cut you down (well sharp)
To cut you down
If you are the big, big tree, let me tell you that
We are the small axe
Ready to cut you down (well sharp)
To cut you down
Sharpened …

Time for All Ages

Laci Lee Adams,
Director of Religious Exploration

Offering Words and Blessing the Gifts 

Susan
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

Down to the River to Pray

Elizabeth McIntire

Reading

We Hold Hope Close (Rev. Teresa I. Soto)

Susan

*Hymn of Preparation

Spirit of Life

Spirit of life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free; Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Reading

Nothing is Over

(Rev. Megan Ruth Visser, inspired by Rev. Elena Rose Vera)
Sermon

*Closing Hymn  Blue Boat Home
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 or 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.

Extinguishing the Chalice

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.

Go Out and Love the World

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

Postlude

Today at First Parish

Please join us for Virtual Coffee Hour immediately following the service at https://zoom.us/j/524871087. You can also access this at our website www.firstparishinbrookline.org if you have any challenges.

Vespers will meet at 7:00pm by Zoom. Please be in a quiet space, with a candle lit and a few other candles/tea lights at the ready. We will share readings, and all are invited to bring readings if they would like. 
Please contact Anne Copeland with questions and for the Zoom link.
Announcements

Find the right way to connect with RE!
RE parents and families - please consider one or more of these ways to connect with each other and our RE program. Find additional details in the November Newsletter or in the most recent RE email in your inbox.
1) Connect with the RE program and other RE parents, by joining our private Facebook group, RE@FPB.
2) Consider joining a First Parish Family Cluster.
3) Register for age-specific RE programming here.

Me & White Supremacy: A Spiritual Journey
Rev. Lisa, Prilla Brackett, and Leigh Smith invite you to join them in an exploration of our own white-skin privilege and its impact on how we see and interact with the world around us. Using Layla Saad’s book, "Me and White Supremacy: How to Recognise Your Privilege, Combat Racism and Change the World," we will meet twice monthly for journaling, conversation and mutual encouragement. This shared spiritual journey will support us to look deeply inward, facing hard truths and gaining new insights to help us combat racism in our world. Like Layla Saad, we hope to "become ‘good ancestor[s]’; to live and work in ways that leave a legacy of healing and liberation for those who will come after [we are] gone.
The group will meet on November 12th and then on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7-8:30pm. We may add the 4th Thursday of the month in January, if the group decides to do that, to make faster progress. Please sign up here.

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
Thursdays from 1:00 - 2:00pm
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. 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!
Have questions? Ask here https://form.jotform.com/200856071147149
OR email Martha Leader mleader@rcn.com
Thursday Meditation Group
Our weekly meditation group will meet from 5:15-6:30pm each week. The meditation group is a welcoming sangha/community, open to all, on a drop-in basis. Please join us for meditation, conversation, and connection. For questions or to be added to our reminder email, please contact Rev. Lisa.
Here's the Zoom link:
https://zoom.us/j/99882442871?pwd=c0dNZzdQN0VJ1Ny9LYmFFODV3WUMxUT09