

First Parish in Brookline
November 22, 2020
Thanksgiving



Gathering Bell

Introit

We were all wounded at wounded knee

Elizabeth McIntire,
Landon Rose, Nathan Freitas

*We were all wounded at Wounded Knee
You and me
We were all wounded at Wounded Knee
You and me
In the Name of Manifest Destiny
You and me
You and me
You and me*

*They made us many Promises
But always broke their Word
They penned us in like Buffalo
Drove us like a Heard
And finally on the Reservation
We were going for our Preservation
We were all wiped out by the seventh Calvary
You and me
You and me*

*We were all wounded at Wounded Knee
You and me
We were all wounded at Wounded Knee
You and me
In the Name of Manifest Destiny*

*You and me
You and me
You and me*

*Now we make our Promises
We won't break our Word
Well sing, sing, sing out our Story
Till the Truth is heard
There's a whole new Generation
Which will dream of Veneration
Who were not wiped out by the seventh Calvary
You and me
You and me*

*We were all wounded at Wounded Knee
You and me
We were all wounded at Wounded Knee
You and me
We were all wounded by Wounded Knee*

Words of Welcome

Elizabeth

Call to Worship

Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood

***Opening Hymn**

We Gather Together

Keith Kirchoff, Music Director

*We gather together in joyful thanksgiving,
acclaiming creation, whose bounty we share;
both sorrow and gladness we find now in our living,
we sing a hymn of praise to the life that we bear.*

*We gather together to join in the journey,
confirming, committing our passage to be
a true affirmation, in joy and tribulation,
when bound to human care and hope-- then we are free.*

Unison Chalice Lighting

Elizabeth 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)*

Time for All Ages

Laci Lee Adams,
Director of Religious Exploration

Candles of Peace & Hope and Joy & Concern

Rev. Lisa and Jud

Prayer

Haudenosaunee Prayer

Greetings to the Natural World

The People

Laci Lee Adams

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

Now our minds are one.

The Earth Mother

Elizabeth McIntire

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Waters

Seth VanDerzee

We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms—waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.

Now our minds are one.

The Fish

Adrian Jones

We turn our minds to all the Fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that we can still find pure water. So, we turn now to the Fish and send our greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Plants

Rachel Mark

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.

Now our minds are one.

The Food Plants

Emily Wheeler

With one mind, we turn to honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden. Since the beginning of time, the grains, vegetables, beans and berries have helped the people survive. Many other living things draw strength from them too. We gather all the Plant Foods together as one and send them a greeting of thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Medicine Herbs

Aaron VanDerzee

Now we turn to all the Medicine herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us. We are happy there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these plants for healing. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the Medicines and to the keepers of the Medicines.

Now our minds are one.

The Animals

Aaron Newell

We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honored by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so.

Now our minds are one.

The Trees

Petra Brackett

We now turn our thoughts to the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who have their own instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty and other useful things. Many people of the world use a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind, we greet and thank the Tree life.

Now our minds are one.

The Birds

Aaron VanDerzee

We put our minds together as one and thank all the Birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them beautiful songs. Each day they remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader. To all the Birds-from the smallest to the largest-we send our joyful greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Four Winds

Adrian Jones

We are all thankful to the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind, we send our

greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.
Now our minds are one.

The Thunderers

Rachel Mark

Now we turn to the west where our grandfathers, the Thunder Beings, live. With lightning and thundering voices, they bring with them the water that renews life. We are thankful that they keep those evil things made by Okwiseres underground. We bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to our Grandfathers, the Thunderers.

Now our minds are one.

The Sun

Seth VanDerzee

We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest Brother, the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.

Now our minds are one.

Grandmother Moon

Elizabeth McIntire

We put our minds together to give thanks to our oldest Grandmother, the Moon, who lights the night-time sky. She is the leader of woman all over the world, and she governs the movement of the ocean tides. By her changing face we measure time, and it is the Moon who watches over the arrival of children here on Earth. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon.

Now our minds are one.

The Stars

Emily Wheeler

We give thanks to the Stars who are spread across the sky like jewelry. We see them in the night, helping the Moon to light the darkness and bringing dew to the gardens and growing things. When we travel at night, they guide us home. With our minds gathered together as one, we send greetings and thanks to the Stars.

Now our minds are one.

The Enlightened Teachers

Petra Brackett

We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring teachers.

Now our minds are one.

The Creator

Aaron Newell

Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is

here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

Now our minds are one.

Closing Words

Rev. Lisa

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

Now our minds are one.

This translation of the Mohawk version of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address was developed, published in 1993, and provided, courtesy of: Six Nations Indian Museum and the Tracking Project All rights reserved.

Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World English version: John Stokes and Kanawahienton (David Benedict, Turtle Clan/Mohawk) Mohawk version: Rokwaho (Dan Thompson, Wolf Clan/Mohawk) Original inspiration: Tekaronianekon (Jake Swamp, Wolf Clan/Mohawk)

Source: https://americanindian.si.edu/environment/pdf/01_02_Thanksgiving_Address.pdf

Anthem

Be Thankful (Natalie Cole) Adrian Jones, Nathan, Landon

*You may be in a big city or drivin' down a country lane, yeah
Workin' two jobs to make a livin'
And all you do is complain, well
You should be thankful of what you got
Yes, you should be thankful of all you got*

*Wakin' up in the mornin', seein' the sun rise
(Well, well)
Is enough to say, "I thank you, Lord"
Rollin' over, seein' my baby's eyes, uh
Is enough to say, "I thank you, Lord"*

*I just wanna say thank you
(Thank you)
Thank you, thank you, thank you, Lord
(Thank you)*

*(Thank you)
Thank you
(Thank you)
Thank you*

*(Thank you)
Thank you, Lord
Be thankful of what you got
(You know you should)
Be thankful of all you got*

*You may live in the valley, you may live on the highest hill
Some people say, you don't do nothin' but take the doctor's pills
You may be in a nursery, in a classroom
Drivin' your big fine car, hup*

*Airplanes, uh, take you, uh far
Layin' out in the sun, uh, or just workin' on the run
Hoo, you should be thankful of what you got
I know you should be thankful, oh, yeah, of all you got*

*(Well, well)
Yeah, ooh, oh
(Be thankful)
We need to be thankful of what you got
Of everything we got*

*(Be thankful)
We need to be more thankful
(Of all you got)
Of everything you got
(Be thankful)
Thank you, thank you, thank you*

*(Of all you got)
Thank you for all I got
(Be thankful)
Thank you*

Reading *USDAC Poetic Address 2020* (Lyla June Johnston)

Reflection

Rev. Lisa

Offering Words & Blessing of Gifts

Elizabeth

Today's offering will go to la Colaborativa. Please give as generously as you can by clicking [here](#) and putting "Colaborativa" in the notes section 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

Thankful (Josh Groban)

Emily Wheeler

*Somedays, we forget to look around us
Somedays, we can't see the joy that surrounds us
So caught up inside ourselves
We take when we should give
So for tonight we pray for
What we know can be
And on this day we hope for
What we still can't see
It's up to us, to be the change
And even though we all can still do more
There's so much to be thankful for
Look beyond ourselves
There's so much sorrow
It's way too late to say, I'll cry tomorrow
Each of us must find our truth
It's so long overdue
So for tonight we pray for
What we know can be
And everyday, we hope for
What we still can't see
It's up to us, to be the change
And even though we all can still do more
There's so much to be thankful for
Even with our differences
There is a place we're all connected
Each of us can find each others light
So for tonight, we pray for
What we know can be
And on this day, we hope for
What we still can't see
It's up to us, to be the change
And even though this world needs so much more
There's so much to be thankful for*

Reading *Myself, A High Priest of Truth* (Howard Thurman)

***Hymn of Preparation** *Gracias a la vida*

Keith

*Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto.
Me ha dado el sonido y el abecedario,
con él las palabras que pienso y declaro:
madre, amigo, hermano y luz alumbrando
la ruta por donde yo ya voy pasando.
y el canto de todos que es mi propio canto.*

*Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto.
Me ha dado la risa y me ha dado el llanto;
así yo distingo dicha de quebranto,
los dos materiales que forman mi canto,
y el canto de ustedes que es el mismo canto.*

*Thanks be to life that has given me so much.
It has given me sound and the alphabet,
with it the words that I think and declare:
mother, friend, brother and light illuminating
the route along which I am now traveling.*

*Thanks be to life that has given me so much.
It has given me laughter and it has given me weeping;
that way I distinguish happiness from heartbreak,
the two substances that form my singing,
and your singing that is the same song.
and everyone's singing that is my own song.*

Reflection

Jud

***Closing Hymn** *Oh We Give Thanks*
(special thanks to Sally B. Moore)

Keith and Allelu

*Oh we give thanks
for this special day
For all gathered here
And those far away
For this time we share
With love and care
Oh we give thanks
For this special day*

Extinguishing the Chalice

Elizabeth and Jud

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

Go Out and Love the World

Keith

*Go out and love the world!
Vá e ame o mundo!*

*¡Vayan a amar al mundo!
Ale e renmen tut moon! (2x)*

Postlude

I Stand All Amazed

Keith

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.

Announcements

Family to Family: Celebrating the Thanksgiving Holiday with Our Chelsea Neighbors
During the health crisis and economic devastation of the pandemic, La Colaborativa (formerly named the Chelsea Collaborative) has worked indefatigably to partner with families in a community that has endured some of our state's highest COVID rates, providing everything from food distribution to connections with employers and rental relief programs to virtual skill building workshops. They have also expanded their geographic focus in response to growing needs. ([Read here](#) about recent important changes at La Colaborativa).

At this time of Thanksgiving, we're thankful for the invitation to celebrate in partnership and solidarity with La Colaborativa and immigrant families in Chelsea by participating in an effort to make culturally sensitive Thanksgiving meals, with flavors of home, available to all. La Colaborativa is working with a local business to provide and deliver these delicious prepared dinners at a cost of \$100 per family.

First Parish families are invited to support our neighbors and community partners by [contributing here](#) - please indicate "For Family Thanksgiving" - with many thanks for your generosity!

Questions? Please contact Tania (winniefrank@verizon.net) or Ellen (blaneyellen@gmail.com) of the Immigration Justice Committee.

Together for Thanksgiving

This year we can't share our traditional Thanksgiving feast in our building or travel to be with families and friends. However, there is no reason to eat alone! We can't share our food but we can share each other's company. [Sign up here](#), and then on Thanksgiving Day prepare your meal, set your table, and zoom in to one of our Thanksgiving gatherings. We have set two time slots: 12 to 2 and 4 to 6. Please sign up for any and all that might work for you and we will come back to you with the zoom link. If you already have a family celebration planned for another time in the day, join us for dessert or a holiday toast while you are cooking. We would love to see you! Questions? Contact [Rev. Lisa](#) in the church office or [Barb Simonetti](#).

UU Ministry for the Earth Opportunities:

Sunday, November 22 4-6:30 pm ET

Congregational Teach-in: Addressing 400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism

Hosted and organized by Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs, Rev. Karen Van Fossan, Ann Gilmore, & Aly Tharp. Supplementing the 2020 UUA Action of Immediate Witness “Addressing 400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism”, this teach-in is focused on supporting congregations to cultivate relationships of solidarity with Indigenous Peoples locally. This program will also include a brief UU history lesson dismantling the Thanksgiving pageant myth, and a call to shift UU cultural Thanksgiving practices towards honoring the Fall harvest, the land, and its stewards.

Thursday, November 26, Beginning its 12 pm ET

51st National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Massachusetts

Unitarian Universalists are encouraged to tune into the live stream of the Day of Mourning events taking place in Plymouth, MA, organized by the United American Indians of New England. Exact details are still being finalized. Sign up for the Justice Convergence & Teach-In to receive all the details.

To see all of the events, and/or to register for any/all of them, [click on this link and then click on “Register Now.”](#) There is only one registration request for all of the programs - there is no way to register separately for specific events.

51st Annual National Day of Mourning

When: November 26, 2020 12:00 Noon

Where: Coles Hill, Plymouth, MA

In 2020, while some supporters will attend in person, we will also livestream the event in Plymouth and have substantial additional online content, with messages from many struggles as well as music.

To watch livestream on [UAINÉ Facebook page](#) and check out [the Facebook event here](#).

For More Information/Orientation: info@uaine.org www.uaine.org
United American Indians of New England (decolonizing since 1970)

Indigenous Peoples’ Day Scavenger Hunt

As a way of expressing our thanks and centering Indigenous Peoples’ in the midst of Thanksgiving weekend, we will be opening up our Indigenous Peoples’ Day Scavenger Hunt again starting after worship today until after worship next Sunday. Take this opportunity to learn some trivia, take an outdoor adventure, explore a virtual experiences or commit to a social justice action! All are welcome to participate. Sign-up and join the hunt here: <http://scavr.app/join/EBN8Yul9DbrL7BJmH1wF>