

FIRST PARISH of WESTWOOD, UCC

GROWING FAITH.

SHARING LOVE.

GROUNDING LIVES.

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



May 14, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

We Are an Open & Affirming Church

First Parish of Westwood affirms the dignity and worth of every person regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, family structure, education level, economic circumstance and faith or religious tradition.

†
GATHERING

*Please rise in body or in spirit. The congregation is invited to sing with choir.
Items in **Bold** indicate congregational participation.

CHIMING

WELCOME AND NAMING OUR GRATITUDE

CENTERING OUR FOCUS UPON GOD *Liebstraume (Love's Dream) No. 3 in A flat-
Major Franz Liszt*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God holds out to us the promise of new life:

People: Life as unpredictable, as unrehearsed, as explosive as life at the very beginning.

Leader: God calls us to respond to this gift

People: With creativity, with joy, and with courage.

Leader: In worship we can begin to accept this gift of new life.

People: Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 89

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

RECOGNIZING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Keeper of heaven and earth, guardian of our coming and going forth, of our times of tender reflection and our moments of turmoil, our life is fragile, and we sometimes fray the fabric of life. Sharpen our sensitivities. Teach us to prefer listening to speaking, tenderness rather than aggression, community in a world of alienation. Deepen for us the meaning of the resurrection, that we not only speak words of transformation but embody those words in our life. Healer, Renewer, Sustainer, Source of Hope and Joy, we offer thanks and praise, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen.

(silence)

SCRIPTURE

John 14: 15-21

A WORD FOR ALL AGES

(For this portion, we ask that the children join the adults in singing the first verse, followed by the second verse, during which the children and their teachers will depart for Sunday School.)

**“Although we go our separate ways
to listen, learn and teach,
keep us together, God, and share
your love with all and each;**

**and let us hear the news of Christ
so that, when worship's done,
we may be full of Easter-life,
then go, and pass it on!”**

ANTHEM

Special Moments - Jean Perry

SERMON

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

HYMN NO. 388

Help Us Accept Each Other

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

CALL TO OFFERING

The amazing gift of one who fully embodied God's intention for humanity prompts us to make a grateful response. In Christ we have known a love that will not let us go. Through an offering let us share this love in our community and to the ends of the earth.

OFFERTORY

My Jesus, I Love Thee - Adoniram J. Gordon

* DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Giver of life, receive all we offer you this day. Let the Spirit you bestow on your church continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

VENTURING OUT INTO THE WORLD

* RECESSIONAL HYMN (INSERT)

We Are One in the Spirit

* ANNOUNCEMENTS

* BENEDECTION

* FOLLOWING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*Go in Peace -
Kenneth White*

**Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you this day.
Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!
Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you always.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F Major - Dietrich Buxtehude

*While it is our custom to sit during the postlude, you are free to exit the Sanctuary
at any time at the conclusion of the service.*

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (Bm) (Em)
Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

{ *Announcements* }



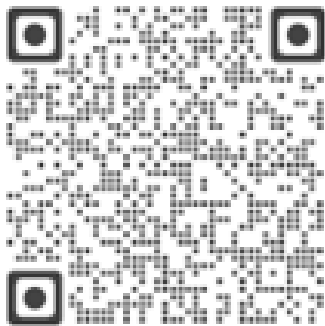
UPCOMING EVENTS

Digital Sunday Bulletin now available

You might have noticed some QR codes hanging up in the church lobby... we've gone digital! There is now an option to receive your bulletin information digitally by scanning the QR code with your smart phone's camera, which will take you directly to a digital copy of our bulletin. We will still have paper copies available, of course, but for those who like to try out the QR code, paperless is now an option. Let us know what you think about it, we'd love to hear your feedback!

Building Relationship with Pastor JT

Because this is our year of relationship, Pastor JT wants to meet with you to hear your stories and learn more about you as we build relationships together. All members of the congregation are invited to schedule a time for yourself or your family to meet with Pastor JT, either at your home, somewhere out in the world like a park or a restaurant, or here at the church. You can schedule a time with Pastor JT by using the QR code below or you can also contact the church office for help with scheduling. But don't forget to find a time, because Pastor JT would like to meet with everyone in the church!



Dates at a Glance

- ✓ **Today:** Worship service @ 10 a.m. followed by Coffee Hour (Happy Mother's Day!)

- ✓ **Sunday, May 21st:** Worship service @ 10 a.m. featuring a special Gospel & Confirmation Sunday service followed by our BIG Sunday Brunch

- ✓ **Sunday, May 28th:** Worship service @ 10 a.m.

Gospel & Confirmation Sunday, May 21st at 10 a.m.

On Sunday, May 21st at 10 a.m. we are hosting a special Gospel & Confirmation Sunday service! We are coming together to support and celebrate two confirmands and their families for this very special occasion.

We are also blessed to have the wonderful gospel music of Sharon Molden & Friends, featuring director Herbert Jones. For the past 26 years, Sharon has appeared at Symphony Hall as a lead vocalist and member of the Boston Pops Gospel Choir, including concerts at the Esplanade. She has also been a featured vocalist during the Holiday at the Pops for 11 concerts and televised in a Pops concert taped for PBS's Evening At Pops along with guest artists Patti LaBelle and Edwin Hawkins. Sharon recently has also appeared as the featured artist for the Stonehill College Nakamichi Concert Series.

We are delighted and excited for this special worship service and hope to see you all there!

Would you like to remain in your home as you age?

On Wednesday, May 17th at 1 p.m. Kendall at Home will be holding an informational seminar in our church hall. Kendall at Home is a non-profit leader in the field of aging in place.

Their services include navigating, coordinating and paying for long term care in your home, if and when it is needed. To register contact Ellen Koswick at 857 366 1076.

Coffee Hour Hosts

Coffee anyone? Many big thanks to everyone who has been a host since September of our Sunday Coffee Hour. It is clear we missed coffee hours during the first two years of COVID! Now, we enjoy our time in the large gathering hall after worship where we catch up with each other over coffee, tea, juice and a snack. On Big Brunch Sundays, our Coffee Hour hosts provide additional treats to sustain us while we meet with the church's ministries and plan for our collective futures.

If you've never had chance to host a coffee hour and would like to help, please add your name to a list outside the office. It is not only a great way to learn where things are in the kitchen, but it is a fun way to meet others.

Call for Ushers

Are you interested in becoming more involved in service as an usher at First Parish? Please contact Dan Der Marderosian (dan.dermarderosian@gmail.com, (617) 462-4880) to be included on the ushering roster. We have immediate openings and offer training in all aspects of the role! The schedule typically includes two ushers paired together each Sunday. If you would like to work as a pair with someone else or "float", also let Dan know.



Address 252 Nahatan St, Westwood, MA 02090
Office Phone 781.326.5344
Pastor JT's Cell Phone 707.583.5731
Office Email office@firstparishwestwood.org
Pastor JT's Email jthills@firstparishwestwood.org

FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD LEADERSHIP

Ministers *The Body of Christ*
Pastor *Rev. JT Hills*
Director of Music *Dr. Sarah Tocco*
Office Administrator *Nicole Wietrak*
Custodian *Roger Matson*
Faith Community Nurse *Margery Eramo*
Moderator *Sharon Hobbs*
Technology .. *.Doug Hyde*
Liturgist. *Bob Deininger*
Ushers. *Charlie Domina & Peter Kane*
Nursery Care .. *Alison Deininger*
Sunday School *Amie Colcord & Laura Hall*
Coffee Hour Host. *TBA*

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The flowers this morning are given by Elizabeth Kast in honor of all mothers.

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