



FIRST PARISH of WESTWOOD, UCC

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

Growing Faith. Sharing Love. Grounding Lives.

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
Usher. Jesse Aguilar
Coffee Hour Hosts Barb Delisle & Mary Masi Phelps



When Hands Reach Out Contributors: Carolyn Gillette - Copyright 2001 #VT513
Go in Peace Contributors: Kenneth White and Barber Waters - Copyright 1982 #11496
Music reprint and broadcast permission through OneLicense.net License #A-709710.

October 9, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The altar flowers are given by the Dorey family the in loving memory of Nancy's parents Ruth and Lawrence Dorey.

We Are an Open & Affirming Church

www.firstparishwestwood.org

Find us on Facebook!

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

WELCOMING AND NAMING OUR GRATITUDE

CENTERING OUR FOCUS OF GOD *October from the Seasons – Pyotr Tchaikovsky*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us praise the God who formed the mountains and created the wind.

People: Let us sing to the One who made the stars, who turns deep darkness into morning and day into night.

Leader: Let us turn to God, hating what is evil and loving what is just.

People: So may justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like and ever-flowing stream.

*OPENING HYMN INSERT *When Hands Reach Out & Fingers Trace*

RECOGNIZING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Loving God, form in me a space for healing and enter in anew. For too long I have clutched the past in ways that have prevented the possibility of moving forward. Boundaries of my own making have kept me resistant to your healing mercy. Definitions of the world's making have created divisions preventing the possibility of a new day, a new season, a new life. By Your mercy form me for a life of mercy and thanks. Lift every burden and release me from every long-rehearsed story holding me hostage to any narrative of hopelessness, hurt and fear. Grant instead a lightness of spirit forgiving me and freeing me to leap into a dance of delight beyond my wildest imagination.

(silence)

Hear the good news! Into our little openings of trust, God is pouring a large love born of mercy. No burden of your past is stronger than this power of Love to forgive, heal, and bless. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Now may our lives become songs of thanksgiving and praise that others too may discover the amazing power of God to make all things new! Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Esther 7: 1-10

TIME WITH YOUTH

ANTHEM

God Shall Wipe Away All Tears – J.T. Field

SERMON

Haman's Downfall

*HYMN No. 23

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

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.

BAPTISM

INVITATION

WELCOME

Leader: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

Leader: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

ADDRESS

Leader: Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "yet you have come to me!"

People: Jesus said, "Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.

Leader: As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

People: Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Leader: At another time Jesus said: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Leader: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH –
ADAPTED BY ROBERT V. MOSS*

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

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

Impromptu – Sarah Tocco

* 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

God of constant love, every day you renew the covenant made once with us in baptism. As you are faithful in all things, may we, in our offering, be faithful to our calling. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

VENTURING OUT INTO THE WORLD

* RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 351

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

* ANNOUNCEMENTS

* BENEDICTION

* FOLLOWING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD *Go in Peace – Kenneth E. White*

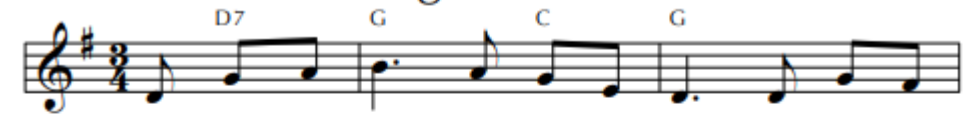
**Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you in this day.
Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!
Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you always.**

POSTLUDE

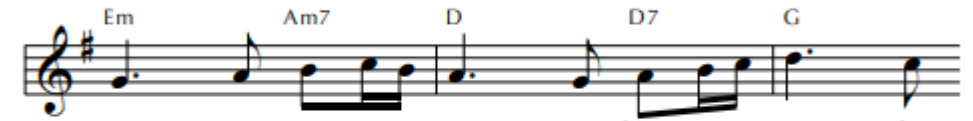
Prelude in F Major – J.S. Bach

*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.*

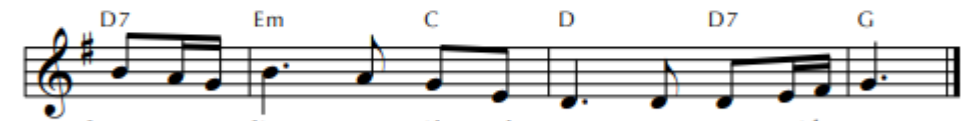
When Hands Reach Out and 302 Fingers Trace



1 When hands reach out and fin - gers trace the beau - ty
2 When fin - gers spell and signs ex - press our prayer and
3 When bro - ken bod - ies will not mend, we thank you,
4 And when the ways we learn and grow are not the
5 Your Spir - it gives us dif - fer - ing ways to serve you



of a loved one's face, we thank you, God, that
praise and thank - ful - ness, we thank you, God, that
God, for Christ our friend. In him, our heal - ing
ways that oth - ers know, we thank you, God, that
well and of - fer praise. When all are joined as



love re - lies on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.
hands can sing; you bless the si - lent songs we bring.
can be - gin: he wel - comes all the wound - ed in.
we have learned your love's a gift, and nev - er earned.
one, we'll be your a - ble, strong com - mu - ni - ty.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This hymn celebrates the breadth of human diversity and the variety of gifts and abilities through which God's people serve the church and world. Incorporating such diversity provides a vital witness to the hospitality of Christian community and to the inclusive nature of love.

TEXT: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2001
MUSIC: English folk melody; harm. John Weaver, 1988
Text © 2001 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Music Harm. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

O WALY WALY
LM

{ Announcements }



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pumpkin Potluck

A sign-up sheet for the Pumpkin Potluck is posted outside the church office. It will be held Saturday, October 22nd from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please let us know if you are attending and what yummy food item you will bring. Meal courses include appetizers, dinner items, and desserts. Remember, the theme is pumpkins and cranberries. A prize goes to the most creative use of these ingredients. However, you can always forego pumpkins/cranberries in whatever you bring!!

Connect: Membership Class

If you are not already a member, but would like to explore becoming one, this October will see a return of our new members class. The class will meet for an hour after worship every Sunday in October, except October 30th, which will be the day you will officially become a member of the church! Prospective new members will be partnered with a “companion” who is already a member of the church for this process. If you are interested in the membership class, please contact either the office or Pastor JT. Contact information for both can be found on the last page of the bulletin.

Coffee Hour Hosts

Every Sunday through November 20th, there will be two hosts for coffee hour. Please see the sign-up sheet located outside the church office to add your name to partner with an experienced host. It's a great way to become familiar with the ins and outs of the kitchen and to enjoy a special time of fellowship following worship.

First Parish Welcomes New Custodian

It is a bittersweet moment at First Parish, as we say goodbye to our longtime custodian Denis Wholey and welcome in Roger Matson, who will be taking over the reins. While we will miss Denis dearly and are grateful for his many years of service and energetic spirit, Roger is a welcome addition to the First Parish family and comes with many years of sage experience. Welcome to First Parish Roger!

Pumpkin Team First Parish Embarks on Interfaith Walk for Hunger and Sock Drive

First Parish is calling all walkers and supporters to join us on the Interfaith Mini-Walk for Hunger on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 2 p.m. Details can be found in this Sunday's E-Blast, so check your inboxes to find out how you can be a part of Team First Parish. There are even ways to participate as non-walkers, like making a donation or being a part of our Sock Drive. Net proceeds go to Project Bread, an organization that connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible.

Neighbors In Need Mission Offering

A collection will be taken this Sunday for Neighbors in Need, the United Church of Christ's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries.

Pumpkins With a Purpose – We Need Volunteers!

Pumpkins are coming! Pumpkins are coming! After a pandemic hiatus, we are once again going to live up to our name as 'The Pumpkin Church.' What do we need from you? Tell your friends to buy our Pumpkins with a Purpose and sign up to sell our groovy gourds. The net proceeds go exclusively to various local charities which help our community. The patch will be open on weekends, starting October 15th. Saturdays from 9 am to 5 pm and Sundays from 11:30 am to 5 pm. If the weather is nice, and we have sellers, we may open on Fridays from 3 pm to 5 or 6 pm. A sign-up sheet is outside the church office or you may call our new Church Administrator, Nicole, in the office at 781-326-5344. If you are willing to sell, but can't commit to a time at this point, let Nicole know.

Dates at a Glance

- ✓ Neighbors in Need Special Offering - Today, Sunday, October 9th
- ✓ Indigenous People's Day, October 16th - Office Closed
- ✓ Pumpkins with a Purpose – Weekends starting October 15th (Saturdays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. & Sundays 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- ✓ Pumpkin Potluck - Saturday, October 22nd, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- ✓ Interfaith Walk for Hunger - Sunday, October 23rd, 2 p.m.