

The First Parish in Portland, Maine

Ingathering Music *The Sound of Silence* Jonathan Chatfield
Paul Simon

Ring the Bell Moe Blanchard

Caring for One Another First Parish Pastoral Care Team

Welcome Rev. Dr. Elaine Beth Peresluha

Prelude *Dark of Winter* Una Voce
Hymn #55

Opening Words *Time Of The Longest Night* Rev. Elaine
adapted from Winter solstice Goddess Series

Hymn #226 *People Look East*

Responsive Chalice Lighting:
To face the world's coldness,
A chalice of warmth.
To face the world's terrors,
A chalice of courage.
To face the world's turmoil,
A chalice of peace.
To rekindle faith,
A flame of hope.

May this chalice flame renew our spirits, strengthen our hearts, and inspire our lives.

First Parish Covenant
Love is the doctrine of this church
The quest for truth is our sacrament
And service is our prayer
This is our great covenant,
To dwell together in peace,
To seek truth in love,
And to help one another
To the end that all souls shall grow
Into harmony with the divine.

Time for All Ages *Darkness and Chalice* Rev. Elaine

Singing the Children Out John Corrado
We will keep a place for you wherever you may go.
We'll sustain this home of faith and love you've come to know.
Go in peace! Bring hope to hearts that yearn.
We will keep a place for you 'till you return.

Meditation Part I *Welcoming the Darkness* Rev. Elaine

Musical Response *How Sweet the Darkness*

Reading *When A Child Asks About Angels* Rev. Elaine
Stuart Dischell

Meditation Part II *Angels* Rev. Elaine

Hymn #1055 *How Sweet the Darkness*

Offertory *Beneath the Moon's Embrace* Jonathan Chatfield
Chad Lawson

Closing Words *Welcome Yule* Rev. Elaine
Susan Cooper

Unison Benediction & Extinguishing the Chalice
We extinguish this Flame, but not the Light of Truth,
the Warmth of Community, or the Fire of Commitment.
These we carry in our hearts, until we are together again.

Postlude *Hymn #55* Jonathan Chatfield
Instrumental

We invite you to light a candle of Joy or Sorrow
on either side of the Meeting House during any of the hymns.
We welcome the youngest members of our community.
Please take pleasure in the voices and rustlings of our new generation.
Please turn off cell phones and refrain from taking photographs
and wearing fragrances during service. Thank you.

First Parish Staff and Leaders

Interim Minister

The Reverend Dr. Elaine Peresluha
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Congregational Administrator

Hannah Gilman
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Keyboard Artist in Residence

Jonathan Chatfield

Sexton

Moe Blanchard

Ministry Leadership Team

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Ministerial Search Committee

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Governing Board

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Wendy Stanley



The First Parish in Portland, Maine
Unitarian Universalist Church

December 4, 2022

10 AM

Welcoming The Dark
Rev. Dr. Elaine Beth Peresluha

Tech Director - Devon Medeiros

Usbers - Pastoral Care Team