

ORDER OF SERVICE

First Church Boston
66 Marlborough Street
Boston, MA
Sunday, December 13 2020, from the Sanctuary

Broadcast live, 11:00 am to noon, on WERS, 88.9FM, Vivian Borek, announcer
Streamed live on Facebook @firstchurchboston, Craig Hildreth, audio and video engineer
Dr. Robert August, Director of Music; Sophie Urquhart, mezzo-soprano

Prelude	Creator of the Stars of Night	Christopher Tambling (b. 1964)
Opening Words		Rev. Stephen Kendrick
Hymn # 190	Light of Ages and of Nations	AUSTRIA
Chalice Lighting and Tolling of the Bell		Daniel Lawlor
Love is the spirit of this church, and Service its law. This is our great covenant, to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.		
Time for All Ages	The Hanukkah Story	Daniel Lawlor
Go Now in Peace		
Responsive Reading # 503	“Bless Adonai,” by Rami S. Shapiro	Vivian Borek
Choral Meditation	Lead, Kindly Light <i>Performed by the First Church Choir</i>	John B. Dykes (1823-1876)
Reading	“On Angels,” by Czesław Miłosz	Daniel Lawlor
Hymn # 227	Crèche Flickers Bright Here	MENNYBOL
Reading	“The Evening Star,” by Rainer Maria Rilke	Daniel Lawlor
Announcements		Daniel Lawlor
Prayer and Meditation		Daniel Lawlor
Affirmation # 123	Spirit of Life	
Sermon	“Lux Æterna”	Rev. Kendrick
Offertory	Vaga luna che inargenti <i>Sophie Urquhart, mezzo-soprano</i>	Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)

Text Messaging Donation

You can use text messaging on your smartphone to send a contribution to the First Church offertory. Text a number representing your dollar amount (5, 10, 20, etc.) to

(617) 917-5610. You will receive an emailed receipt. Thank you!

Charge		Daniel Lawlor
Hymn # 226	People, Look East	BESANÇON
Benediction		Rev. Kendrick
Postlude	Sleepers Awake	Wayne L. Wold (b.1954)

Hymn Texts, Responsive Reading (12/13/20)

Hymn # 190 Light of Ages and of Nations AUSTRIA

Light of ages and of nations, every race and every time
has received thine inspirations, glimpses of thy truth sublime.
Always spirits in rapt vision passed the heavenly veil within,
always hearts bowed in contrition found salvation from their sin.

Reason's noble aspiration truth in growing clearness saw;
conscience spoke its condemnation, or proclaimed eternal law.
While thine inward revelations told thy saints their prayers were heard,
prophets to the guilty nations spoke thine everlasting word.

Lo, that word abideth ever; revelation is not sealed;
answering now to our endeavor, truth and right are still revealed.
That which came to ancient sages, Greek, Barbarian, Roman, Jew,
written in the soul's deep pages, shines today, forever new.

Responsive Reading # 503 "Bless Adonai," by Rami Shapiro

Bless Adonai
who spins day into dusk.
 With wisdom watch the dawn gates open;
With understanding let time and seasons come and go;
 With awe perceive the stars in lawful orbit.
Morning dawns, evening darkens;
 Darkness and light yielding one to the other.
Yet each distinguished and unique.
 Marvel at Life!
 Strive to know its ways!
Seek Wisdom and Truth,
the gateways
to Life's mysteries!

Wondrous indeed is the evening twilight.

Affirmation # 123 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

Hymn # 227

Crèche Flickers Bright Here

MENNYBOL

Crèche flickers bright here, sing by the light here
at night fall, at night fall.
Mother's here keeping a child who's sleeping
in the stall, in the stall.

Father's beside them, sheep nearly hide them.
Angels call, angels call.
Shepherds and sages bow through the ages,
kindred all, kindred all.

Crèche flickers bright here, sing by the light here
at night fall, at night fall.
This is our token, by sign unspoken:
peace to all, peace to all.

Hymn # 226

People, Look East

BESANÇON

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course and flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.