

## ORDER OF SERVICE

**First Church Boston**  
**66 Marlborough Street**  
**Boston, MA**  
**Sunday, January 10, 2021, 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*  
*Masha Stepanova, video editor*  
*Dr. Robert August, Director of Music; Ethan Bremner, tenor; Yme Dijkstra, guitar*

**Prelude** "Harmony and Conterpoint in E (Phrygian)" James Woodman (b. 1957)

**Opening Words** Rev. Stephen Kendrick

**Hymn # 113** Where Is Our Holy Church? ST. MICHAEL

**Chalice Lighting and Tolling of the Bell** Rev. Kendrick

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.

### **Go Now in Peace**

**Responsive Reading # 665** "Transcendental Etude," by Adrienne Rich Daniel Lawlor

**Musical Meditation** "Preguntar y contestar" Yme Dijkstra (b.1972)  
*Yme Dijkstra, guitar*

**Reading** "I Know I Have the Best of Time and Space," by Walt Whitman  
Daniel Lawlor

**Announcements** Daniel Lawlor

**Prayer and Meditation** Daniel Lawlor

**Affirmation # 123** Spirit of Life

**Sermon** "Question Box Sermon -- The Last Round Up" Rev. Kendrick

**Offertory** "Is Faith a Gift?" from Elmer Gantry Robert Aldridge (b. 1954)  
*Ethan Bremner, tenor*

### **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 confirmation by email. Thank you!

**Hymn # 347**

Gather the Spirit

GATHER THE SPIRIT

**Benediction**

Rev. Kendrick

**Postlude**

God heeft het laatste woord [God Has the Last Word]

Sietze de Vries (b. 1973)

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**Hymns, Responsive Reading, Affirmation: Texts (1/10/21)**

**Hymn # 113**

Where Is Our Holy Church?

ST. MICHAEL

Where is our holy church?  
Where race and class unite  
as equal persons in the search  
for beauty, truth, and right.

Where is our holy writ?  
Where'er a human heart  
a sacred torch of truth has lit,  
by inspiration taught.

Where is our holy One?  
A mighty host respond;  
the people rise in every land  
to break the captive's bond.

Where is our holy land?  
Within the human soul,  
wherever free minds truly seek  
with character the goal.

Where is our paradise?  
In aspiration's sight,  
wherein we hope to see  
arise ten thousand years of right.

**Responsive Reading # 665** "Transcendental Etude," by Adrienne Rich

No one ever told us we had to study our lives,

*Make of our lives a study, as if learning natural history or music,*

That we should begin

with the simple exercises first

and slowly go on trying

the hard ones,

*Practicing till strength and accuracy became one with the daring to leap into  
transcendence.*

And in fact we can't live like that: we take on everything at once before we've even begun to  
read or mark time, we're forced to begin in the midst of the hardest movement,

*The one already sounding as we are born.*

**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 # 347**

Gather the Spirit

GATHER THE SPIRIT

Gather the spirit, harvest the power.

Our sep'rate fires will kindle one flame.

Witness the mystery of this hour.

Our trials in this light appear all the same.

(Chorus)

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.

Gather in sympathy now and then.

Gather in hope, compassion and strength.

Gather to celebrate once again.

Gather the spirit of heart and mind.

Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.

Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,

with body and spirit united once more.

(Chorus)

Gather the spirit growing in all,  
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.  
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,  
the chorus of life resounding as one.

(Chorus)