

ORDER OF SERVICE

First Church Boston
66 Marlborough Street
Boston, MA
Sunday, May 17, 2020

This service is broadcast live from 11:00 am to noon on WERS, 88.9FM.

Vivian Borek, WERS announcer.

Also streamed live on First Church Boston's Facebook page, Michael Sullivan, video.

Prelude Fugue in A Minor, HWV 609 Georg Friedrich Handel (1685-1759)

Call to Worship Rev. Stephen Kendrick

Hymn #287 Faith of the Larger Liberty

Chalice Lighting and Invocation

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 Daniel Lawlor, ministerial intern

Go Now in Peace

Unison Reading #426 A Reading from the Book of Isaiah, 35 Daniel Lawlor

Musical Meditation "Cuando el Pobre" (1971) Music and Words by José Olivari and Miguel Manzano
William Thorpe, piano and voice

Reading #510 A Meditation from Rev. Jane Rzepka Daniel Lawlor

Announcements Daniel Lawlor

Prayer and Meditation Daniel Lawlor

Musical Affirmation #123. Spirit of Life

Sermon "Into the Wilderness" Rev. Kendrick

Offertory "*Thoughts of a Wanderer*" (2015) Music written and performed by William Thorpe

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. The first time you do that, it will ask you to fill in credit card information that can be reused for subsequent contributions. You will receive an emailed receipt. Thank you!

Charge Daniel Lawlor

Hymn #308 Blessings of the Earth and the Sky

Benediction

Faith of the Larger Liberty #287

Faith of the larger liberty, source of the light expanding,
law of the church that is to be, old bondage notwithstanding:
faith of the free! By thee we live —
by all thou givest and shalt give our loyalty commanding.

Heroes of faith in every age, far-seeing, self-denying,
wrought an increasing heritage, monarch and creed defying.
Faith of the free! In thy dear name
the costly heritage we claim: their living and their dying.

Faith for the people everywhere, whatever their oppression,
of all who make the world more fair, living their faith's confession:
faith of the free! Whate'er our plight,
thy law, thy liberty, thy light shall be our blest possession.

Unison Reading

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah, 35-

"The wilderness and dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing."

Reading #510 A Meditation from Rev. Jane Rzepka

O Spirit of Life and Renewal,

We have wintered enough,
mourned enough,
oppressed ourselves enough.

Our souls are too long cold and buried,
our dreams all but forgotten,
our hopes unheard.

We are waiting to rise from the dead.

In this, the season of steady rebirth,
we awaken to the power so abundant,
so holy,
that returns each year through earth and sky.

We will find our hearts again,
and our good spirits.

We will love, and believe,

and give and wonder,
and feel again the eternal powers.

The flow of life moves ever onward through
one faithful spring, and another, and now another.

May we be forever grateful.

Alleluia.

Amen."

Spirit of Life #123

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.

Blessings of the Earth and Sky #308

The blessing of the earth and sky upon our friendly house do lie.
The rightness of a master's art has blessed with grace its every part.
The warmth of many hands is strewn in human blessing on this stone.

The wind upon the lakes and hills performs its native rituals.
The worship of our human toil brings sacrament from sun and soil.
With words and music, we, the earth, in nature's wonder seek our worth.

Here we restore ancestral dreams enshrined in floor and wall and beam,
a monument wherein we build that their high purpose be fulfilled,
be tool to help our children prove an earth of promise and of love.

Notes on Music:

"Cuando el Pobre" is a song that is popular with Spanish-speaking congregations across America. A summary of the text is: When the poor ones who have nothing still are giving; when the thirsty pass the cup of water to share; when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor; when the nations work together to change war into peace; when we choose love instead of hatred, we see God walking with us here by our side. "Va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar."