

ORDER OF SERVICE

First Church Boston
66 Marlborough Street
Boston, MA
Sunday, July 19, 2020, via Zoom

*This service is broadcast live from 11:00 am to noon on WERS, 88.9FM,
Vivian Borek, announcer.
Also streamed live on Facebook @firstchurchboston, Michael Sullivan, videographer.
Music -- William Thorpe, baritone; Larry Bell, pianist*

Prelude	Prelude no. 24, in b minor (op. 156) (2019) <i>Larry Bell, piano</i>	Larry Thomas Bell
Opening Words		Katie McQuage-Loukas
Hymn # 360	Here We Have Gathered	OLD 124TH
Chalice Lighting and Invocation		Katie McQuage-Loukas
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 Covenant of First Church	Katie McQuage-Loukas
Go Now in Peace		
Unison Reading # 580	“The Task of the Religious Community,” by Mark Morrison-Reed Vivian Borek	
Musical Meditation	Hawaiian Lullaby <i>William Thorpe, baritone; Larry Bell, piano</i>	Peter Moon (1944-2018)
Announcements		Daniel Lawlor
Responsive Reading # 646	“The Larger Circle,” by Wendell Berry	Daniel Lawlor
Prayer		Daniel Lawlor

Affirmation # 123 "Spirit of Life"

Sermon "To Walk in Mutual Love" Katie McQuage-Loukas

Offertory Ainahau (Land of the Hau Tree) Princess Miriam Likelike (1851-1887)
William Thorpe, baritone; Larry Bell, piano

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 # 121 We'll Build a Land CREATION OF PEACE

Benediction Katie McQuage-Loukas

Postlude Three-Part Sinfonia in g minor (BWV 797)
Larry Bell, piano Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Hymn texts and readings

Hymn # 360 "Here We Have Gathered"

Here we have gathered, gathered side by side;
circle of kinship, come and step inside!
May all who seek here find a kindly word;
may all who speak here feel they have been heard.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.

Here we have gathered, called to celebrate
days of our lifetime, matters small and great:
we of all ages, women, children, men,
infants and sages, sharing what we can.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.

Life has its battles, sorrows, and regret:
but in the shadows, let us not forget:
we who now gather know each other's pain;
kindness can heal us: as we give, we gain.
Sing now in friendship this, our hearts' own song.

Unison Reading # 580 "The Task of the Religious Community," by Mark Morrison-Reed

The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice. It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed.

Responsive Reading # 646 "The Larger Circle" by Wendell Berry

We clasp the hands of those that go before us,
And the hands of those that come after us.

We enter the little circle of each other's arms
And the larger circle of lovers, whose hands are joined in a dance,

And the larger circle of all creatures,
Passing in and out of life, who move also in a dance,

To a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it
Except in fragments.

Musical 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 # 121 "We'll Build a Land"

We'll build a land where we bind up the broken.
We'll build a land where the captives go free,
where the oil of gladness dissolves all mourning.
Oh, we'll build a promised land that can be.

(Chorus)

Come build a land where sisters and brothers,
anointed by God, may then create peace:
where justice shall roll down like waters,
and peace like an ever flowing stream.

We'll build a land where we bring the good tidings
to all the afflicted and all those who mourn.
And we'll give them garlands instead of ashes.
Oh, we'll build a land where peace is born.

(Chorus)

We'll be a land building up ancient cities,
raising up devastations from old;
restoring ruins of generations.
Oh, we'll build a land of people so bold.

(Chorus)

Come, build a land where the mantles of praises
resound from spirits once faint and once weak;
where like oaks of righteousness stand her people.
Oh, come build the land, my people we seek.

(Chorus)