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Minister Emeritus

The Reverend Fred Lipp

Vice President: Celine McFarquhar

Clerk: Davis Balestracci

Finance: Allen Armstrong

Music Director

Dr. Deirdre McClure

Membership: position open

Building Systems: Vincent Veligor

Pianist/Organist

David Bartoletti

At Large: Bette Brunswick, Joy Larrabee

Worship: Aurelie Bush

Life Long Learning: Jen Caswell

Director of Religious Exploration

Allison Gammons

Youth Representative: Eleanor Dow

Faith In Action: Marjorie Stockford

Sexton

Moe Blanchard

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Congregational Administrator

Emily Brocks

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Clerk: Janet Puistonen

Charles Micoleau,

Colleen Sanders,

Vincent Veligor,

Randall Weill

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Rev. Christina Sillari

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Office Hours Tues 9am-2pm, Thurs 2-6pm, or by appointment

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, the twenty-fourth of December, two thousand eleven

Half after five o'clock in the evening

The First Parish in Portland Maine Unitarian Universalist



We welcome you to our church and to this celebration of joy in the midst of darkness.

Join us in worship and song this Christmas Eve!



Prelude "Dark, Light" Mozart/Harding
Nipper Harding, Tenor

"What Child is This?" Old English Melody
Andrew Sawyer, Cello

Ring the Bell Halim Moldaver

Opening Words The Reverend Christina Sillari

"All My Heart This Night Rejoices" Gerhard/Ebeling
First Parish Choir, Dr. Deirdre McClure, Director

Welcome The Reverend Christina Sillari

Hymn "Angels We Have Heard On High"

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains;
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?

Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Lighting Our Chalice

First Parish
wishes everyone

a
Joyous holiday season
filled with Love and
Light!





Reading

Meeting the Messiah Jeffrey B. Symynkywicz
The Reverend Christina Sillari

Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing, and voices ring with peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this worldly din,
Where meek souls will receive him, dear Jesus enters in.

Children’s Moment

Annarosa Whitman and Maddie Logan

Blessing of the Children

The Reverend Christina Sillari

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Traditional

Andrew Sawyer, Cello

Meditation

Immanuel Sarah Movius Schurr
The Reverend Christina Sillari



Hymn

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her king.
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! Let gladness reign. Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks,
Hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
Let righteousness its glories show as far as love is found,
As far as love is found, as far, as far as love is found.

Love rules the world, with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of God’s righteousness, and wonders of God’s love,
And wonders of God’s love, and wonders, wonders of God’s love.

Christmas Prayer

The Reverend Christina Sillari

Silent Reflection

Offertory

Ave Verum Corpus Est
First Parish Choir

Mozart

Homily

The Reverend Christina Sillari