

FIRST PARISH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST



*Canton*  
MASSACHUSETTS



**Earth Day:**

**Spiritual Practices in a Time of Climate Crisis**

**Order of Service**

**April 21, 2024**

**Earth Day: Spiritual Practices in a time of Climate Crisis**  
with Rev. Dr. Michelle Walsh  
April 21, 2024

**Gathering Music** Jim Chubet

**Prelude** *Waltz in E-flat Major (Beethoven)*  
Jim Chubet

**Welcome & Announcements** Don Seaman

**Shared Call to Worship & Unison Chalice Lighting**  
Rev. Michelle & Congregation

*Written by Adrienne Rich #463*  
*followed by a Passover Haggadah #453*

In honor of Earth Day tomorrow, as well as the beginning of  
Passover tomorrow evening, we say together:

My heart is moved by all I cannot save:  
So much has been destroyed  
I have to cast my lot with those who, age after age,  
perversely, with no extraordinary power,  
reconstitute the world.

May the light we now kindle  
inspire us to use our powers  
to heal and not to harm,  
to help and not to hinder,  
to bless and not to curse,  
to serve you, Spirit of freedom.

# Earth Day: Spiritual Practices in a time of Climate Crisis with Rev. Dr. Michelle Walsh

**Covenant** Rev. Michelle & Congregation  
Love is the doctrine of this congregation. The quest for truth is its sacrament, and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace with respect and understanding; to seek knowledge in freedom; to serve our fellows and human kind to the end that all souls shall grow together in harmony: thus do we covenant with each other and with our God, by whatsoever name we worship.

**\*Opening Hymn** Hymn #203 – *All Creatures of the Earth and Sky*  
First Parish Choir & Congregation

**Reading** Genesis 1:26-30 and Job 38:1-21  
Rev. Michelle

**Stewardship Testimonial** Don Seaman, part 2

**Invitation to the Offering** Don Seaman

**Offertory** *Mother Nature's Son (Lennon-McCartney)*  
First Parish Choir

**Joys & Sorrows** Rev. Michelle & Don Seaman

**Meditation and Prayer** Rev. Michelle

**Musical Interlude** Hymn #104 – *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land*  
First Parish Choir

# Earth Day: Spiritual Practices in a time of Climate Crisis with Rev. Dr. Michelle Walsh

**Sermon** Earth Day: Spiritual Practices in a Time of Climate Crisis  
Rev. Michelle

**\*Closing Hymn** Hymn #21 – *For the Beauty of the Earth*  
First Parish Choir & Congregation

**\*Shared Benediction** Rev. Clyde & Congregation  
*Attributed to Chief Noah Sealath #550*

This we know. The earth does not belong to us;  
we belong to the earth.  
This we know. All things are connected  
like the blood which unites one family.  
All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth  
befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.  
We did not wave the web of life; We are merely a strand in it.  
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

**\*Unison Chalice Extinguishing** Rev. Clyde & Congregation  
By Elizabeth Selle-Jones

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth,  
the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.  
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

**Postlude** Hymn #411 – *Part in Peace*  
First Parish Choir

**\*Rise in body or in spirit**  
**Please join us for coffee hour after the Service**

### **April Faith in Action: Canton High School Performing Arts Scholarship**

The Faith in Action offering this month will fund a one-time scholarship for a Canton High school senior who is planning to major in music or theatre in college this coming fall or later. There is no better way to live our values than to help a local teen continue their education in a field that we know is vitally important to all our children yet so often in times of crisis or economic hardship becomes expendable in the minds of those with control over budgets and spending. It is no secret that the pandemic has made learning hard for our children and teens. And no educational experiences have suffered more than those that include performance and the fine arts. For more information contact Jim Chubet, FPUU Music Director. Make checks or PayPal contributions payable to FPUU Canton and tell us in the memo line or note that your contribution is for Faith In Action (FIA). Please give as generously as you are able. Thank you!

### **April/May Events at FPUU**

*(See weekly email announcement and FPUU website for details on any of the below)*

***Spirituality and Social Justice Film Conversation:*** Saturday, April 20 from 1 to 3pm. Earth Day focus “Ice on Fire” documentary.

***FPUU Public Speaker Forum*** featuring Neponset River Watershed Association: Saturday, April 20 at 4pm-5pm.

***Soul Matters:*** Sunday, April 21 (theme interdependence) from 12:15pm to 1:15pm; then Sunday, May 5 (theme pluralism) from 12:15-1:15PM.

***One Woman Show: Picking Up Stones: An American Jew Wakes to a Nightmare,*** a play by Sandra Laub in multiple voices about the Israel/Hamas war. Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7PM. This also is a fundraiser for FPUU. Limited Tickets/Buy Now at <https://first-parish-unitarian-universal.betterworld.org/events/picking-up-stones-by-sandra-laub>

### **Upcoming in our Five Points Cluster**

***Deeper Than The Skin*** musical presentation on race in America: Saturday, April 20 from 6:30 to 8:30pm at First Parish Milton, 535 Canton Avenue.

***BOLA Dinner, Raffle & Silent Auction:*** Saturday, April 27 at 6pm at First Parish Stoughton, 790 Washington Street. Contact [office@firstparishstoughton.org](mailto:office@firstparishstoughton.org) for reservations no later than April 22.

***Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace*** - Sunday, May 12 at 8:00am in Dorchester, MA. See 5 Points Cluster team captain John Donovan and your weekly announcements for more detailed information, including the donation link.

### **Upcoming Greater Neponset River Region**

***Canton Earth Day Celebration*** – Saturday, April 27 – noon to 4pm. Mass Audubon

## **Land and Labor Acknowledgement**

The First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton, MA

*[Working draft for discussion with the Neponset Band of the Massachusetts Tribe and vote by the congregation]*

The First Parish Unitarian Universalist-Canton is proud to be a major historical church of Canton, representing a consolidation of two of the oldest churches within Canton – the First Parish Unitarian, founded in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the First Universalist Church, founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We also recognize that our church's history is complicated by the combined legacies of colonialism and slavery in the United States context. We acknowledge the history of Indigenous peoples and the dispossession of their lands, including that these original lands were named Ponkapoag by indigenous peoples. We pay our respects to the Neponset Band, among other bands, of the Massachusetts Tribe, who have stewarded this land throughout generations and honor their continued presence here and throughout their diaspora. We also acknowledge that we here in Canton do not exist independently from centuries of forced labor and economic extraction from enslaved and indentured Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) as well as poor white immigrants. And we want to affirm that while we cannot change history, we can work for justice, and that justice begins with recognition and acknowledgment of our shared history and experiences in relationship first. We celebrate and work in solidarity with BIPOC organizations leading the movement for our collective liberation in line with our 8th Principle commitment.

## **Our Vision and Purpose**

FPUU Canton is a welcoming, caring, and diverse faith community that seeks to nurture and inspire each person's spiritual journey while serving others in our commitment to peace and justice.

### **Minister & Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs, *Co-Lead Minister*

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Walsh, *Co-Lead Minister*

The Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, *Minister Emerita*

Jim Chubet, *Music Director*

Elizabeth Foster, *Ministerial Intern*

Carol Smith, *Office Administrator*

### **Parish Committee 2023-2024**

Kitty McGregor, *President*

Dave Williams, *Vice President, Administration*

Felisa White, *Vice President, Member Services*

Jonette Nagai, *Treasurer*

Barbara Casaly, *Clerk*

Bette Wells, *Member-at-Large*

Don Seaman, *Member-at-Large*

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 781-828-0296

Office Email: [office@fpuucanton.org](mailto:office@fpuucanton.org)

Ministers' Email: [minister@fpuucanton.org](mailto:minister@fpuucanton.org)



<https://fpuucanton.org>