



The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



“The Tenth Triad (The Wedding at Cana)” by Joseph Matar from LebanonArt.com.

January 11, 2026
First Sunday after Epiphany

Nursery care is available for children under 5 years old, upstairs in Room 203, where our professional caregivers provide activities, crafts, snacks, and a scripture-based curriculum.

During worship, children are invited to explore our ‘Prayground’ to the right of the worship platform. There is also a Family Room across the hall from the Prayground for those who would like a quiet place to rock or nurse. Rocking chairs are also available at the back of the Sanctuary.

Hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Scan the QR code to the right to fill out a visitor card, contribute to our offering, and more!



Gathering Music

Suite Breve
by Craig Phillips

Susan DeSelms
Minister of Music and Organist

***Chiming the Trinity**

**means we invite you to rise in body and spirit*

Opening Hymn**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling***

All Sing

TUNE: HYFRYDOL

Greetings

Kent French, *Senior Pastor*
 Amy Norton-Benfield, *Associate Pastor*
 Matisse Peppet, *Seminarian*

Centering Prayer of Confession (unison)

Loving and compassionate God,
to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid.

We confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in one another, in ourselves,
and in the world you have created.

We turn away from the harm that enslaves us,
the harm we have done
and the harm done on our behalf.

Forgive us, restore and strengthen us, we pray.

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name...

Silent Confession

We take up to one minute to pray our own private confessions in silence.

One: O God, in your compassion;

All: **Hear our prayer.**

***Assurance of Grace**

***The Peace of Christ**

One: The Peace of Christ and the Love of God be with you always;

All: **And also with you.**

***Peace Response**

Jesus, the Light of the World

verse 1

New Century Hymnal #160

TUNE: ELDERKIN

***Hark, the herald angels sing,
Jesus, the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ-child bring,
Jesus, the light of the world.***

***We will follow the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops
of mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.***

Sacrament of Baptism

Introduction

Covenant Promises

of the Parent

of the Congregation (*rise in body and spirit*)

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations
and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism.

Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament,
promise your love, support, and care to this child
and to all people in our midst as they live and grow in Christ?

People: **We joyfully welcome her as a member
of our covenant community and into the family in Christ.
We offer ourselves to be your siblings and cousins,
uncles and aunts, and grandparents in Christ,
and to surround you with God's love
as we know it in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Baptism

Presentation of the Baptisand and Gifts

Baptismal Prayer (unison)

**God of our parents, and our God,
we thank you for this little one, a beloved child made in God's image,
and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Spirit.
Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend her
as a member of the body of Christ.
Give her strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering,
the joy of faith, the freedom to love, and the hope of new life,
through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

Baptism Response

The Lamb
Text by William Blake, Music by Lee Hoiby

Emma West
Soprano

*Little Lamb, who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life and bid thee feed.
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing woolly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice.
Making all the vales rejoice:
Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?*

*Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee;
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek and he is mild,
He became a little child
I a child and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name,
Little Lamb, God bless thee.
Little Lamb, God bless thee.*

Reading from the Gospel

John 2:1-11

Emmalee Israel
20/30 Vision Convener

One: For the Good News of Jesus Christ;
All: **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Kent French

Hymn in Response*Lead On, Eternal Sovereign*

All Sing

TUNE: ANGEL'S STORY

Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - 'reign, we fol - low in your way;
 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - 'reign, we fol - low not with fear,
 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - 'reign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,

Loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day:
 For in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear:
 And all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;

Through prayer - ful pre - per - a - tion, your grace will make us strong,
 That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,
 Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,

to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong.
 Our trust is in your pro - mise that love will con - quer all.
 to love and serve each o - ther for all e - ter - ni - ty.

Prayers of the People

Matisse Peppet and Amy Norton-Benfield

One: O God, hear our prayer;

All: And guide us with your love.

The Lord's Prayer

We invite you to use whatever word for God you choose: Mother, Father, Adonai, Allah, or...

Our Creator, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name
 Thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 On Earth as it is in Heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread
 and forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 But deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

Offering Invitation

No gift is too small or too large; all are precious.

*We encourage everyone to participate in passing the offering plate,
as an act of our common life together.*



Ways to contribute:

1. Place cash, check, visitor card, or “I Give Online” card in the offering plate.
2. Scan the QR code.
3. Through Venmo (@unitedparishinbrookline), Paypal (paypal.me/unitedparish), Realm (internal directory/database), or at unitedparishbrookline.org.

Offertory Anthem

Total Praise
by Richard Smallwood

Chancel Choir

Dedicated to the life and musical ministry of composer
Richard Smallwood who passed away on December 30, 2025.

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

All Sing

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Je-sus Christ whose pow'r up lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho-ly Spi - rit! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

All Sing

New Century Hymnal #436

TUNE: CWM RHONDDA

*Holy Business

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Amen (excerpt from Total Praise)
by Richard Smallwood

Chancel Choir

*Postlude

Epilogue
by Craig Phillips

Thank you to those serving in worship today:

Acolyte: Sachin V.

Liturgist: Emmalee Israel

Ushers: Tyler Smith, Madeline Cortes, Nora Teikmanis, Karina Thompson,
Alan Fobes, Emily Turkington

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Take-Home Questions

When have you been afraid or hesitant to start something big and new?

What helped you get started? What happened?

Where do you need help today?

WELCOME

We at the United Parish in Brookline believe that all people are made in the image of God and embrace and cherish every person and every kind of family. Jesus Christ welcomed everyone; we seek to follow his example in our own life and worship, by extending God's love and grace abundantly and equally to everyone. We affirm and welcome all people to share in worship, fellowship and leadership with us, to join us in a diversity of race, gender, sexual identity, physical and mental ability, ethnicity and economic means.

We have joined with other Open and Affirming (United Church of Christ) and Welcoming and Affirming (American Baptist Churches USA), as well as with the Reconciling Ministries Network (United Methodist Churches) to declare that we are and will remain open to all people.

We invite you to consider becoming a member of the United Parish family. You may become a member by transferring membership or by a statement of faith. If you desire to retain ties with a former church, we invite you to become an associate or affiliate member for the time you are with us.

*We ask that you silence all electronic devices.
Please see an usher if you would like a hearing assistive device.*

*Because our building is open to the public,
an adult should accompany children if/when they leave the worship service.*

Ministers
Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Minister of Music
Seminarian
Handbell Choir Director
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Multimedia Producer
Parish Administrator
Accounting Administrator
Building Manager
Head Custodian
Custodian
Custodian
Nursery Supervisor
Nursery Staff
Nursery Staff
Nursery Staff
Nursery Staff
Pastor Emerita

The People of the United Parish
Reverend Kent French
Reverend Amy Norton-Benfield
Susan DeSelms
Matisse Peppet
Tricia Kopko
Ruby Abreu
Emma West
Joey Timmons
Valentine Umeh
Jordan Wuth
Sarah Fitzpatrick
Jim Smith
Rebekah Shore
Violet Nowlan
Emery Bibbins
Joy Hanlon
Katy Lum
Adrianna Dionisio
Anne Florient
Ione Madsen Hardy
Ashlyn O'Dowd
Patricia Coughlin



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

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