



First Parish of Westwood UCC

252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090

www.firstparishwestwood.org

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Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

February 7, 2021
5th Sunday after Epiphany

Gathering

PREPARATION

I stand by the bed where a young woman lies, her face post-operative, her mouth twisted – palsy, downish. A tiny twig of the facial nerve, the one to the muscles of her mouth, has been severed . . . to remove the tumor in her cheek, I had cut the little nerve. The young husband is in the room. He stands on the opposite side of the bed, and together they seem to dwell in the evening lamplight, isolated from me, private. . . . "Will my mouth always be like this?" she asks. "Yes," I say, "it will. It is because the nerve was cut." She nods and is silent. But the young man smiles, "I like it," he says. "It is kind of cute." He bends to kiss her crooked mouth, and I am so close that I can see how he twists his own lips to accommodate her, to show her that their kiss still works. . . . I hold my breath and let the wonder in.

Richard Selzer, *Moral Lessons: Notes on the Art of Surgery*

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Jesse Aguilar with Fina Aguilar

WARRANT FOR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Judith Thomson, Clerk

WELCOME AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer

Thomas Hastings
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

Encountering the Word

LESSON

Reader: Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor
Mark 1:29-34, NRSV

God's plans for us are greater than our own hopes. Jesus' healings care for human need and point beyond themselves to a coming reign of God where we are partners in healing broken lives and a broken world. As Peter's mother-in-law was raised up to minister to the needs of others, so are we.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

MESSAGE

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

PASTORAL PRAYER CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

Our Father, 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, for ever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Come to the Table

Allen Pote
First Parish Westwood Choir
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

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Giving Thanks in Response to the Word

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

Until that day when we gather again in the sanctuary, please send your tithes and gifts for First Parish to the church office at 252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090.

Sending

BENEDICTION

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

BLESSING IN MUSIC

Go in Peace

First Parish Choir
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

Please plan to gather on Zoom at 10:30am for Communion. You should have received an email this morning with the link (<https://zoom.us/j/97776095457>). You will want to have a cup (with juice or wine) and bread within reach when you join on Zoom.

Following Communion, First Parish will have its Annual Meeting.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

**Invitation*

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

**Men and women, youth, and children,
come from the east and the west,
the north and the south,
and gather about Christ's table.**

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ
and to share in the community of God's people.

Everyone is welcome at Christ's table.

**Communion Prayer*

Holy and gracious God, receive our praise for with purpose and compassion you gave of yourself, created our world, and called it good. Throughout the ages you called your people to love and serve you, and to be your light among the nations. When we failed, you did not fail us and sent prophets to call us back to your ways.

We praise you that in the fullness of time, you revealed your love by sending Jesus to be the Light of the world, to heal our brokenness and to set before us the ways of justice and peace. Born to dwell among us, full of grace and truth; in him we have seen your glory:

living for you,
speaking your truth,
showing your love,
and giving himself for others.

We rejoice that you raised Jesus into the newness of life, overturning the power of death, and establishing this bearer of new life as Sovereign in your realm.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

With faithful people in every place and time, we praise your holy name.

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine.

May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing and making us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.