

## Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 2, 2025

9:45 AM



### MEDITATION:

*There is an ocean of warm, affectionate, and outrageously unconditional love available to us all — and it is conveniently accessible from within. I don't believe anyone is excluded from this ocean of love; it is only a question of learning how to hear it, how to feel it, how to trust it. - Elizabeth Gilbert*

PRELUDE                     *Elevazione*             Girolamo Frescobaldi

WORDS OF WELCOME   Rev. Julie Avis Rogers

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Amidst the rush of the world, the noise and the turmoil, remind us that only one thing matters.

**Calm us with your patient love.**

As we leave behind a week of struggle and striving, reassure us that only one thing matters.

**Comfort us with your caring love.**

When we are swept away by our dreams or held back by our fears, steady us with the only thing that matters.

**Let us settle into the peace of your love, in our worship and our lives.**

*\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #459 Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:** Rev. Julie Avis Rogers

**O God,  
in the midst of the cacophony of voices  
that crush our spirit and cause us to shrink,  
voices that say,  
“Who do you think you are?”  
we come to hear your voice of patient love;  
we come to hear your voice  
calling us to be and do  
what you have called us to be and do.  
Let this time of worship quiet our fears,  
soothe our bruised souls,  
and energize us for ministry  
in and with your beloved world.  
Let faith abide.  
Let hope abide.  
Let love abide—  
here in this sanctuary,  
here in our community,  
here in our world,  
but most of all, here in us. Amen.**

**(Adapted from [Ministry Matters™](#) | [Christian Resources for Church Leaders](#))**

**\*SILENT CONFESSION**

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Rev. Julie Avis Rogers

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**GREATOREX**

***Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.***

*Children are invited to head to Church School after the passing of the Peace of Christ.*

## THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

***And also with you.*** *(Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbor!)*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lori Purdy

Please Lord, we also pray for: Those suffering from the effects of flooding, fires and war; healing and comfort for Olive Barrett, Marcia Bibeault, Dick Lane, Michael Martens, Jack Stone, Steve Girard, and Don Massey. Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us saying, **“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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”**

PRAYER RESPONSE #75 *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry (first 3 verses)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALL TO OFFERING

Pam Allen



For your convenience, we have included a QR code for donations. Thank you for your generosity.

## \*DOXOLOGY

*#47 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

**\*UNISON OFFERING PRAYER**

**Holy One, for all the ways you call us to share your love, we give you thanks. Bless this offering and may it be used to bring hope to those in need. We pray all this is Christ's name. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**                    *Psalm 71: 1-6 (Chanting)*

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;  
 let me never be put to shame.  
 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
 incline your ear to me and save me.  
 Be to me a rock of refuge,  
 a strong fortress to save me,  
 for you are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
 from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.  
 For you, O Lord, are my hope,  
 my trust, O LORD, from my youth.  
 From my birth I have leaned upon you,  
 my protector since my mother's womb.  
 My praise is continually of you.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-10

Amanda O'Brien

**The Gift of Love**

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we

know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

This ends the reading of God's Holy Word.  
For the Word of God in Scripture; for the Word of God among us; for the Word of God within us, **thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM	<i>Here Am I</i>	Beck
SERMON	<i>A Letter from Love</i>	Rev. Julie Avis Rogers
*RECESSIONAL HYMN #354, <i>God, When I Came Into This Life (INSERT)</i>		
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Julie Avis Rogers
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE <i>Chalice #313</i>		
POSTLUDE	<i>Toccata</i>	Domenico Zipoli

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***Rev. Julie Avis Rogers is our guest preacher today. Rev. Julie is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ with experience in multifaith leadership, vibrant preaching and speaking, and spiritual counseling. She mostly recently served as the Director of Spiritual Life and Campus Chaplain at Emerson College where she had the honor of leading the school's multifaith center. Prior to her role at Emerson, she served in such roles as Associate Pastor of Church of the Covenant in downtown Boston and Director of Education at the Memorial Church at Harvard University. She recently launched her own business ([www.julieavisrogers.com](http://www.julieavisrogers.com)) as a public speaking coach to bridge her passions in counseling and public speaking. She's honored and delighted to be this week's guest preacher!***

**Jonathan Barnhart is our guest organist providing our sacred music and leading our choir this morning** in worship! Jonathan is a Music Director and Conductor of the Dedham Choral Society. Mr. Barnhart is Organist and Choir Director of First Parish, Unitarian Universalist in Harvard Square, Cambridge, and formerly Organist and Choir Director of Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill. Professional affiliations

include the American Guild of Organists and the American Choral Directors Association. He has taught on the music faculties of Commonwealth School, Milton Academy, Boston College and the New England Conservatory. Mr. Barnhart's editions of choral and organ music are published by ECS Publishing (Mozart, Thompson), Galaxy Music (Vaughan Williams), and Thorpe Music (Gretchaninov, Thompson, and Skryabin).

**NOTE: Communion will be celebrated NEXT SUNDAY February 9th.**

**NOTE: Pledge envelopes for 2025 are here! They are in the back of the Sanctuary.**

### **FLOWERS**

**For the JOY of friendships and traditions gathering us together at the Women's Union holiday party yesterday!**

### **USHERS**

Feb 2nd: Pam Allen & Nancy LaBier

2/9-Gail Palmer & Donna Arthur

### **COFFEE HOUR**

2/2-Finance

2/9-Deacons

2/26-Prudential

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**Be sure to visit our website to see all that is happening at the Allin Congregational Church!**

**[allinchurch.org](http://allinchurch.org)**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

**LOOKING AHEAD!**

**Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Messy Friday 6-7:30pm

**February 18 – 21<sup>st</sup>** – “Love Our Earth” February Break Camp

**NOTICE of the 387<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**of**

**Allin Congregational Church**

Sunday, February 9, 2025

11:30 AM, Stage Room

Notice is hereby posted of the 387<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Allin Congregational Church to generally act upon:

- Reports from various groups and people responsible for church life and activities to be given and accepted
- The Prudential Committee's proposed budget for 2025
- A slate of officers and other leaders to be presented by the Nominating Committee
- Other items that may come before the meeting
- A quorum of 35 in-person members is required by our By-Laws. A hybrid meeting by request is available on Zoom for those requesting access.

## **Minister's Office Hours**

Rev. Anne Marie would love to visit with you at the church during the week or meet you for coffee! She holds office hours on most Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9:30 and 12:30pm! Drop in or schedule a time to meet! She is available to meet off site Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Just send her an email at [pastorannem@allinchurch.org](mailto:pastorannem@allinchurch.org)

Rev. Anne Marie tries to hold Fridays and Saturdays as her Sabbath, as they are often filled with sermon editing/writing and family appointment days.

### **Allin Congregational Church**

#### ***United Church of Christ***

Gathered November 8, 1638

Minister of Music Emeritus: C. Martin Steinmetz

*Rev. Anne Marie Holloway, Minister*

[pastorannem@allinchurch.org](mailto:pastorannem@allinchurch.org)

Andrew J. Welch, Director of Music

Elizabeth McNamee, Director of Children's Ministry

Tania Monahan, Church Office Administrator

Lori Purdy, Office Assistant/Collector

Sam Griesmer, Treasurer

John Fontaine, Sexton

Colin Purdy, Tech Team Lead

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00AM – 12:30PM



# God, When I Came into This Life

354

Fred Kaan, 1979

Isa. 43:1

1 God, when I came in - to this life, you  
 2 You give me free - dom to be - lieve; to -  
 3 With - in the cir - cle of the faith, as  
 4 In all the ten - sions of my life, be -  
 5 So help me in my un - be - lief and

called me by my name; To - day I come, com -  
 day I make my choice, And to the wor - ship  
 mem - ber of your cast, I take my place with  
 tween my faith and doubt, Let your great Spir - it  
 let my life be true: Feet firm - ly plant - ed

mit my - self, re - spond - ing to your claim.  
 of the church I add my learn - ing voice.  
 all the saints of fu - ture, pres - ent, past.  
 give me hope, sus - tain me, lead me out.  
 on the earth, my sights set high on you.

*The musical setting for this text by contemporary poet Fred Kaan is an Appalachian folk tune of possible British origin. Annabel Morris Buchanan, an organist, music teacher, and scholar of American hymnody, collected and arranged this and other tunes in Folk Hymns of America, 1938.*

Tune: LAND OF REST C.M.  
 The Christian Harp, 1832  
 Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938