

*First Parish of Sudbury  
Unitarian Universalist*

*March 29, 2020*



*Resilience (Online)*

*Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty*

March 29, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING TONE

PRELUDE First Parish Choir  
*Peace Like A River* African American Spiritual arr. Gwyneth Walker

WELCOME & OPENING WORDS Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

CHALICE LIGHTING, in unison (Bruce Southworth)  
For the gift of this day and for our community of spiritual nurture and  
compassion, we give thanks.  
We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith.  
May our many sparks meet and merge in communion of heart and soul.

READING – 12-Steps To a compassionate Life Karen Armstrong

MUSICAL INTERLUDE First Parish Choir  
*We Sing* Brian Tate, words & music

SERMON Rev. Marjorie

SILENT REFLECTION/MEDITATION

OFFERING First Parish Choir  
*Serenity Prayer* Reinhold Niebuhr, words Betty Wylder, music

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE (in unison):  
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.

CLOSING WORDS

POSTLUDE First Parish Choir  
*Go Out!* Text by Alfred S. Cole Abridged by Elizabeth  
Alexander; Elizabeth Alexander, music

## MUSIC

### Musical Interlude

*We Sing*

Brian Tate, words &

music

Commissioned for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Halalisa – premiered April 2013. Director Mary Cunningham, described to Brian that she wanted the piece to commemorate the group's anniversary, saying, "Our belief that singing is the universal language...to sing is to express being alive, to engage the world, with history, with other cultures, with other people and ourselves. We sing to pray, to protest, to remember, to forget, to feel and to connect."

*We sing of who we are,  
of who we want to be,  
we sing our dreams alive,  
together we survive,  
we sing when we are strong,  
when all we have is gone,  
together we have come this far,  
we sing of who we are.*

*We sing of who we are,  
we sing of what may be,  
we keep our dreams alive,  
together we survive,  
we sing when we are strong,  
when all we have is gone,  
together we have come this far,  
we sing of who we are.*

*Exultate, jubilate,  
O vos animae beatae  
Exsultate, jubilate,  
Dulcia cantica canendo  
Cantui vestro respondendo  
Psallant aethera cum me.*

*Rejoice, be glad,  
O you blessed souls  
Rejoice, be glad,  
Singing sweet songs;  
In response to your singing  
Let the heavens sing forth with me.*

*We are a circle unending,  
returning, unbending.  
We are a mystery,  
a mystery concealing,  
unfolding, revealing.*

*We sing of who we are,*

*we sing of what may be,  
we keep our dreams alive,  
together we survive,  
we sing when we are strong,  
when all we have is gone,  
together we have come this far,  
we sing of who we are.*

### Offering

*Serenity Prayer*

Reinhold Niebuhr, words Betty Wylder, music

Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change.  
Grant me the courage to change the things I can.  
But to help me know the difference, grant me wisdom.

### Postlude *Go Out!*

Text by Alfred S. Cole Abridged by Elizabeth Alexander; Elizabeth Alexander, music

Preaching a gospel of religious tolerance and unconditional love, the message of early American minister John Murray (1741-1815) is as relevant and refreshing today as it was during his own time. Alfred S. Cole's oft-quoted rendering of Murray's universalist gospel, with its "anti-hellfire-and-brimstone" message, is beloved by people of many faiths all around the world. Elizabeth Alexander brings her Appalachian roots and inventive ear to this rousing song of commission, with sweet gospel harmonies, a soulful piano accompaniment, and an overlay of fierce compassion.

*Go out into the highways and by-ways  
And give the people something of your new vision.*

*You may possess only a small light, but uncover it and let it shine.  
Use it to bring more understanding to the hearts and minds of men.*

*Give them not Hell, but hope and courage.  
Do not push them deeper into their despair,  
But preach the kindness and the everlasting love of God.*

Lyric © 2009 by Elizabeth Alexander. All rights reserved.

## Welcome

### MILESTONES, ANNOUNCEMENTS and Q&A

Will be offered during our online coffee hour. Please click the Coffee Hour button to join us.

### *Thanks to Those Assisting Today:*

**Technical Assistance:** If you need technical support please email [techsupport@FPSudbury.org](mailto:techsupport@FPSudbury.org) and a member of our team will be in touch.

Mark Trone  
Chad Trexler

Worship Assistance:  
Debra Morris-Bennett  
Terry Lockhart  
Ben Reiner

### **Directions for online giving:**

We thank you for your generosity!

- First-time users: First create an account (See the link in the top right corner of the screen to sign up).

You will have an opportunity to set up reoccurring pledges payments or gifts via credit card for First Parish.

- Select the Fund of your choice;
- Select whether the gift is one time or reoccurring;
- Select the amount

*As FPS is charged 2.75% of each credit card transaction, we ask you to consider adding this percentage to your total gift.*

### **Texting your offering**

TEXT NUMBER: [833-448-6403](tel:833-448-6403)

In body of text put # amount (over \$3)

The first time you give, you'll be directed to fill in personal info/credit card info,

Submit and receive an email and text receipt!

First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist is a community of seekers that recognizes the dignity and worth of every human being, affirms each person's search for truth and meaning, asserts our commitment to freedom, and espouses the democratic process. We embrace diversity and include all who share the principles and goals of our community. We are a Welcoming Congregation; we have made the commitment to be intentional about welcoming the presence and participation of gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual persons in all aspects of our congregational life. Together we celebrate the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part.

If you are new to the area or to First Parish, we invite you to sign our guest book. If you have questions, would like to enroll your child in our religious education program, or would like to speak to our minister, please ask an usher for assistance.

Every program at First Parish is funded by voluntary contributions. Members and friends make pledges during our annual canvass. To find out how to make a pledge at another time, please speak to the Assistant Treasurer or to a greeter.

### BOARD of TRUSTEES

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### OFFICERS

Treasurer: Emarie Pope  
Moderator: Sherri Cline    Clerk: Alex Andrews

### STAFF

Minister: Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty ([revmjmatty@gmail.com](mailto:revmjmatty@gmail.com))  
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