

*First Parish of Sudbury
Unitarian Universalist*

April 26, 2020



Beyond Grace:
Embracing Our Mother

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

April 26, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING TONE

PRELUDE

First Parish Choir

Quiet Wonder - Gwyneth Walker, words & music

WELCOME & OPENING WORDS

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

CHALICE LIGHTING, in unison (by Amy Williams Clark)

Blessed is the Sky,
And all that is warm and filled with light.
Blessed is the Air,
And all that is open and free.
Blessed is the Earth,
And all that is steady and firm.
Blessed is the Sea,
And all that is hidden and deep.

READING – Washington Post - Kids

Earth – Avery Fisher, 12 Gaithersburg, MD; Treasure, 12, Rockville, MD

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Terry Lockhart, soloist

The Gospel Isn't Written in the Bible Alone Elizabeth Alexander, words & music

MESSAGE

Rev. Marjorie

OFFERING

First Parish Choir

Song of the Earth Spirit - David L. Brunner, music
Stephen C. Jett, words from Navajo Wildlands

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

Mornings - From Acquaintance With Nature Texts taken from Thoreau's
Walden and the Journals; Gwyneth Walker, music

MUSIC

PRELUDE

Quiet Wonder

Gwyneth Walker, words & music

I walk this earth in quiet wonder.
The beauty surrounds me,
surprises me, overwhelms me.
Quiet wonder, quiet wonder.

A small brook babbles in the forest.
I fall to me knees in prayer:
O God, my Creator,
the Spirit riding on the wind,
teach me to be a shepherd of the Earth,
to protect her waters pure,
her forests of silent majesty,
her creatures large and small.
Hopping, swimming, gliding,
galloping, galloping to heaven.

O God, my Creator,
the Spirit riding on the wind,
guide me in wisdom and caring,
to keep this sacred beauty
for all generations to come.

Hopping, swimming, gliding,
galloping, galloping to heaven.
I would be a shepherd of the Earth.

Quiet wonder, quiet wonder,
I walk this earth in quiet wonder,
quiet wonder, quiet wonder...

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

The Gospel Isn't Written in the Bible Alone

Elizabeth Alexander, words & music

Terry Lockhart, soloist

"God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees, and flowers, and clouds, and stars." - Anonymous, often erroneously attributed to Martin Luther

The Gospel is written on the trees and flowers, it's written on the wind and the rain,
Recorded on the rock and sediment and sand.
It's written on the glory of the far-off sun, and also on the very near,
Inscribed upon the palm of every open hand.
You can hear it in the thunder, you can read it in the stars,
You can find it under every leaf and stone.
On a page wide as a prairie there's a message large as life:
The Gospel isn't written in the Bible alone.

The Gospel is painted onto fins and scales, it's ruffled into feathers and fur,
It's spun into the seashell's deep and sacred scroll.
Behold it in the voices of the birds at dawn, composers of the Song of Songs,
Discern it in the Acts of every living soul.
Every pebble holds a Proverb, every spider spins a Psalm,
Every seed's a Resurrection of its own.
On a page wide as a prairie there's a message large as life:
The Gospel isn't written in the Bible alone.

Imagine now, if you were God
Setting forth a Gospel for all you're worth,
Why would you settle for a single book
When you could write the Gospel on the whole wide Earth?

The Gospel is moving over darkened seas, it's working in the change and the flow,
It's written in a tongue we long to understand.
We marvel at the beauty of the poetry encoded in the chromosome,
And braided through the length of every twisted strand.
It is molded into muscle, it is whispered into breath,
It is carved into the curve of every bone.
On a page wide as a prairie there's a message large as life:
The Gospel may be written in the Bible —
But it surely isn't written in the Bible alone.

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OFFERING

Song of the Earth Spirit

David L. Brunner, music

Stephen C. Jett, words from Navajo Wildlands

It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed.

I am the spirit within the earth...

The feet of the earth are my feet...

The legs of the earth are my legs...

The bodily strength of the earth is my bodily strength...

It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed.

The thoughts of the earth are my thoughts...

The voice of the earth is my voice...

The feather of the earth is my feather...

It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed.

All that belongs to the earth belongs to me...

All that surrounds the earth, surrounds me...

It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed.

I am the sacred words of the earth...

It is lovely indeed.

I am the spirit within the earth...

It is lovely indeed.

The feet of the earth are my feet...

The legs of the earth are my legs...

The thoughts of the earth are my thoughts...

The voice of the earth is my voice...

I am the sacred words of the earth...

It is lovely indeed.

POSTLUDE

Mornings

From Acquaintance With Nature

Texts taken from Thoreau's *Walden* and the Journals

Gwyneth Walker, music

Morning.

There are from time to time mornings, both in summer and in winter,

Mornings, when especially the world seems anew.

The world has been recreated in the night, Mornings of creation, I call them.

It is the poet's hour. Mornings when we are newborn, we who have the seeds of life in us.

Mornings!

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 and a member of our team will be in touch.

Mark Trone

Chad Trexler

Worship Assistance:

Debra Morris-Bennett

Steve Gabler

Terry Lockhart

Ben Reiner

Text 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!

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.

Welcome

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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STAFF

Minister: Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty (revmjmatty@gmail.com)
Minister of Music: Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett (musicdir@fpsudbury.org)
Director of Religious Exploration: Jenna Kyes (dre.fpsudbury@gmail.com)
Marketing & Communications: Jody Kotkin
Administrator: Thomas Stirlen (office@fpsudbury.org)

For the most up to date information please refer to the First Parish of Sudbury Website www.fpsudbury.org and our online calendar: <https://fpsudbury.org/home/news-events/calendar/>