

**First Parish of Sudbury  
Unitarian Universalist**



**Transcendentalism: The Divinity of Nature**  
Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

September 20, 2020

GATHERING TONE

PRELUDE

*Andantino semplice #24* Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett, piano  
Floor Peeters

WELCOME & OPENING WORDS

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

CHALICE LIGHTING

Rev. Marjorie

We who long for return, who long for repair,  
gather again to mend the tender strands of connection,  
between each other, the world  
and those parts of ourselves buried deep.  
We begin, once more, the work  
of welcome,  
of forgiveness,  
of renewing this weary-worn world.  
Come friends, a new day, a new story, awaits!

HYMN #77

*Seek Not Afar For Beauty*

Seek not afar for beauty, lo, it glows  
in dew wet grasses all about your feet,  
in birds, in sunshine, childish faces sweet,  
in stars and mountain summits topped with snows.

Go not abroad for happiness; behold  
it is a flower blooming at your door.  
Bring love and laughter home, and evermore  
joy shall be yours as changing years unfold.

In wonder-workings or some bush a-flame,  
we look for Truth and fancy it concealed;  
but in earth's common things it stands revealed,  
while grass and flowers and stars spell out the name.

READING

*The One in All*  
Margaret Fuller

Rev. Marjorie

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

*Quiet Wonder*  
Gwyneth Walker

First Parish Choir  
Noriko Yasuda, piano  
Hunter Bennett, clarinet

SERMON

Rev. Marjorie

SILENT MEDITATION

OFFERING

*Sarabande*  
Clif Hardin

Rev. Debra, piano

CHALICE EXTINGUISHING

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.

Rev. Marjorie

CLOSING WORDS

Rev. Marjorie

POSTLUDE

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
Hymn by Folliot S. Pierpont  
Setting by Jim Scott

Rev. Debra, organ

**Milestones, announcements, and Q&A** will be offered during our online social hour. Please click the link below your video after the postlude ends to join us.

**Thank you to those assisting today!**

*Music:* Rev. Debra Morris-Bennet and Michael Tyo

### **Remote Offering**

We offer two options for giving remotely.

*Online:* [Click here](#) to be taken to our online payments portal. If this is your first time using the portal, you will need to create an account using the link in the top-right corner of your screen. Then, select the fund you would like to donate to, whether the gift is one-time or recurring, and put in the amount you would like to give.

*By text message:* Simply text 833-448-6403 with the amount you would like to give in the body of your text (over \$3). The first time you give this way, you will be directed to fill in your personal and credit card info. Submit, and receive a receipt by email and text!

We thank you for your generosity!

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

## Notes on Today's Musical Interlude

Words & Music: Gwyneth Walker, © ECS Publishing. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736559. All rights reserved.

A request came for an anthem to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Charles Page as Music Director at Old First Church, Springfield, MA. Charles himself suggested an anthem in praise of the beauty of the earth. Thus, the creation of Quiet Wonder.

This is delicate music. The work opens with a solo organ line marked “as a bird call.” This motive returns within, and at the end of, the anthem.

The choir enters, singing of walking the earth in quiet wonder. A small brook in the forest calls forth the refrain:

“O God, my Creator, the Spirit riding on the wind,  
Teach me to be a Shepherd of the Earth”

The reverence for God's creatures “large and small” is enjoyed through depicting the “hopping, swimming, gliding and galloping” forms of life. Soaring to heaven!

“I walk this earth in quiet wonder.”

Quiet Wonder was inspired by the environs of the composer's home in Braintree, Vermont, especially the beloved swimming pond.

*Notes by the composer*

## 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 apart.

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

Valerie Tratnyek, Chair

Dave Andrews, Deborah Kruskal, Steve Smith, Mark Trone

### Officers

Co-Treasurers: Tom & Deborah Kruskal

Moderator: Sherri Cline

Clerk: Fran Sharp

### Staff

Senior 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 (marcomm@fpsudbury.org)

Parish Administrator: Thomas Stirlen (office@fpsudbury.org)

For up-to-date information, please refer to our website, [fpsudbury.org](https://fpsudbury.org), and our online calendar, available at [fpsudbury.org/calendar](https://fpsudbury.org/calendar).