

**First Parish of Sudbury
Unitarian Universalist**



**Saving the Soul of the Nation
Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty**

September 27, 2020

GATHERING TONE

PRELUDE

Quartet: We will love or we will perish

Words: Pete Seeger
Music: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring -
by J. S. Bach

Celia Hinrichs,
Helen Russell,
Saul Bloom,
Terry Lockhart,
Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett, organ

WELCOME & OPENING WORDS

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

CHALICE LIGHTING

Rev. Marjorie

Don't ask yourself what the world needs;
ask yourself what makes you come alive.
And then go and do that.
Because what the world needs
is people who have come alive.

HYMN #169

We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
we shall overcome someday!

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,
we'll walk hand in hand someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
we'll walk hand in hand someday!

We shall all be free, we shall all be free,
we shall all be free someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
we shall all be free someday!

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
we shall live in peace someday!

Milestones, announcements, and Q&A will be offered during our online social hour. Please remain in the Zoom meeting after the postlude ends to join us.

Thank you to those assisting today!

Music: Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett 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 Music

Quartet: We will love or we will perish

Words: Pete Seeger, Music: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – J.S.Bach

We will love or we will perish
We will learn the rainbow to cherish
Dare to struggle, dare to danger,
Dare to touch the hand of a stranger

Where There Is Light in the Soul

Elizabeth Alexander, based on Chinese Proverb
Performed by Sherwood High School Choir / Bill Evans
Video created by Rochelle Lockridge

Chinese proverb

Where there is light in the soul there will be beauty in the person.
Where there is beauty in the person there will be harmony in the home.
Where there is harmony in the home there will be honor in the nation.
Where there is honor in the nation there will be peace in the world.

Fighting Over What We Believe

Elizabeth Alexander, lyrics and music
Video Director & Editor: Stephen Alexander

“Fighting Over What We Believe” became a meditation on conflict, communication and compassion, with a dialogue of many voices and a “call to action” refrain. The interplay between soloists and different sections of the choir reflects the dynamic relationship necessary for all difficult and important conversations.

Talking left, talking right, talking far into the night,
Splitting hairs, splitting up, splitting off,
Less and more, rich and poor, what to address, what to ignore,
What are we really fighting for?
Persuade, coerce,
Convene, disperse,
Accept or curse?
Deny, confess,
Condemn or bless?
Who lives? Who dies?
My truth, your lies.

Bring in, shut out, what's that all about?
Who gives out retribution and grace?
What to keep, what to spend,
What to give and what to lend?
Some have not, some have a lot.
Can we learn to share the things we've got?

I see us fighting over what we believe, how to love and how to pray.
We begin with hope and resolve and dreams, and end up fighting over what we believe.
I see us fighting over what we believe, leaving spirits poor and lonely.
I want to use my fighting spirit in a different way instead of fighting over what we believe.

I want to wrestle with the angel 'til the light of dawn,
And struggle with my need for pride.
I want to take on my tendency to turn my head,
And grapple with why it feels so hard to gently lay our differences aside.

(Day, night, wrong, right, no end in sight.)

We all believe in justice...
Let's talk about what that looks like.
And we believe in compassion...
Let's look at what that really means.
We believe in the holy work of listening, to every voice.
Let's start our conversation there...

Instead of fighting over what we believe. It wears us down and wears us out.
We have eyes to see, we have ears to hear, we have hands that long to give and receive.
I see us fighting over what we believe, leaving spirits poor and lonely.
I want to use my fighting spirit in a different way instead of fighting over what we believe.

(Divide, unite, exclude, invite, day, night, wrong, right, no end in sight.)

We all believe in justice.

Let's talk about what that looks like.

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Go Out!

Text by Alfred S. Cole – abridged by Elizabeth Alexander

Music – Elizabeth Alexander

First Parish of Sudbury and UU Church of Reading Combined Choirs for joint Music Sunday,
April 2016 called “Raising Our Voices”

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.

Adapted Lyric © 2009 by Elizabeth Alexander

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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.

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Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty (revmjmatty@gmail.com)

Minister of Music: Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett (musicdir@fpsudbury.org)

Marketing & Communications: Jody Kotkin (marcomm@fpsudbury.org)

Website, Enews and Support: Ben Reiner (benjamin.t.reiner@gmail.com)

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

For up-to-date information, please refer to our website, fpsudbury.org, and our online calendar, available at fpsudbury.org/calendar.