

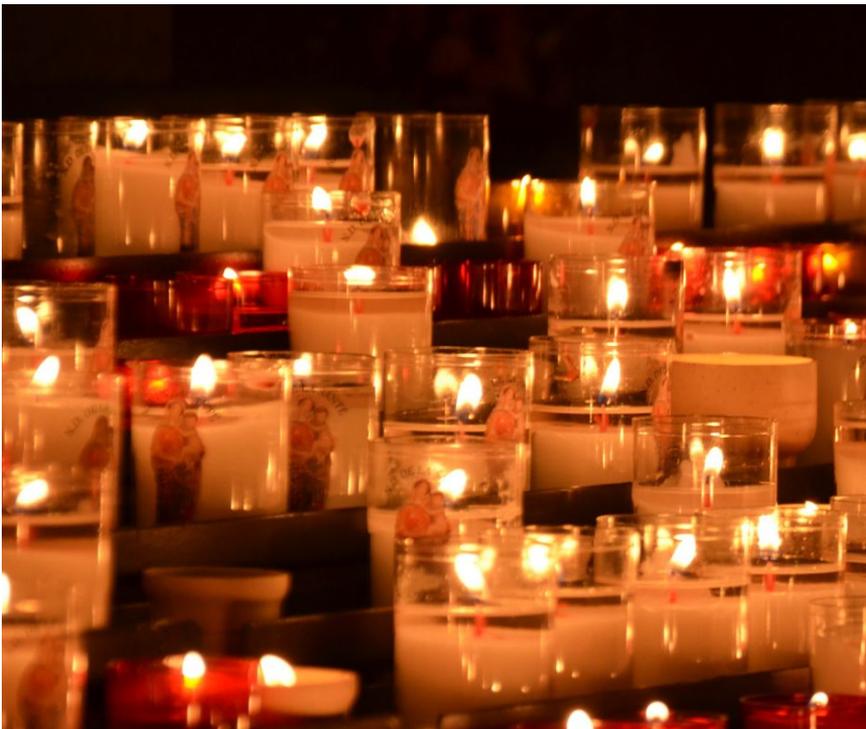


First Parish of Sudbury

*Ignite your spirit
Nurture your values
Join our community*

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

All Souls Big and Small



Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

November 1, 2020

GATHERING TONE

PRELUDE

*Traditional Celtic*Áine Minogue, harp
Tom Hill, clarinet

WELCOME & OPENING WORDS

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

CHALICE LIGHTING

Rev. Marjorie

We light this chalice to find inner peace,
love for each other, and faith in ourselves.
Also, to be welcoming to whomever we meet
and kind to all living creatures. So, gather around
this light of hope as we share this time together.

HYMN #54

Now Light is Less

Now light is less; moon skies are wide and deep;
the ravages of wind and rain are healed.
The haze of harvest drifts along the field
until clear eyes put on the look of sleep.

The sudden spider weaves a silken pear
to keep inclement weather from its young.
Straight from the oak, the gossamer is hung.
At dusk our slow breath thickens on the air.

Lost hues of birds and trees take as their own.
Long since, bronze wheat was gathered into sheaves.
The walker trudges ankle deep in leaves;
the feather of the milkweed flutters down.

The shoots of spring have mellowed with the year.
Buds, long unsealed, obscure the narrow lane.
The blood slows trance-like in the altered vein;
Our vernal wisdom moves from ripe to sere.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf
by Les Buscaglia

Rev. Marjorie

Today's service and coffee hour can be accessed via [this link](#). If you are prompted for a password, enter 12345.

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

All of the music in today's service was taken from our November 4, 2007 "Celtic Harvest" Music Sunday, featuring the First Parish Choir and also two remarkable guest musicians, Áine Minogue on harp and Tom Hill on clarinet. The service was centered on the season being a time of soul-searching and soul-tending...a time of spiritual harvest and spiritual seed-planting. A time for looking back and looking in. It was layered in various religious traditions, including strands of ancient and modern, pagan and Christian traditions around loss and grief.

The choral piece for the Offering, "Deus Meus", was created in an Irish monastic setting sometime between the 8th and 12th centuries after Christianity had arrived. It combines the Irish Gaelic vernacular for daily conversation with the Latin reserved for worship. It is a song of praise and thanksgiving that recognizes both the light and love of God as well as the rage and grief of those who mourn.

This is consistent with the theme of the ancient Celtic harvest festival of Samhain (pronounced SAH-wen). It begins on the eve of November 1st at dusk, now All Hallow' Eve or Hallowe'en. In the "Old Religion", it was the beginning of a new year. Samhain marked the end of the "light half" of the year and the start of the "dark half". On this night, as the earth and its people crossed the threshold of the season, the veil between worlds lifted. It is a time for honoring the ancestors, for celebrating the wisdom, clarity, and freedom that comes with aging. It marks the beginning of a season that "belongs to the earth," thus set aside for rest and peace. It is a time for going inward to restore and renew one's soul.

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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Co-Treasurers: Tom & Deborah Kruskal

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

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

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.