



First Parish of Sudbury

*Ignite your spirit
Nurture your values
Join our community*

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Revelry Sunday



Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty
Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett
Tom Kruskal

December 20, 2020

GATHERING TONE

WELCOME

Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett

PRELUDE

*Abbots Bromley Horn Dance*Kruskal Family
Tom Kruskal, concertina

OPENING WORDS

Solstice Invocation
Anonymous

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

CHALICE LIGHTING

Let us hold a quiet moment together as our chalice is lit.
 As the wild wind bites, so does the still flame warm us.
 As the deep snows block our doors, so does the gentle flame bring us out.
 As the crackling cold air stops our breath, so does the radiant flame draw from us
 the words we need to give and to receive:
 words of greeting, words of comfort, words of solace,
 words to challenge our minds and words to bring us to action.
 Let us gaze upon this our common flame,
 so that we remember who we are and what we can do
 when we are together.

- "As the Wild Wind Bites," by Ben Soule

HYMN #56

Bells in the High Tower

Bells in the high tower, ringing o'er the white hills,
 mocking the winter, singing like the spring rills;
 bells in the high tower, in the cold foretelling
 the spring's up-welling.

Bells in the old tower, like the summer chatter
 from darting bright birds, as the grapes grow redder;
 bells in the old tower, now the wine is brimming,
 new life beginning.

Bells in the stone tower, echoing the soft sound
 of the autumn's mill wheel, as the wheat is spun round
 bells in the stone tower, see, the bread is yeasting
 for time of feasting.

Bells in the cold tower, 'midst the snow of winter
 sound out the spring song that we may remember;
 bells in the cold tower, after the long snowing
 come months of growing.

READING

Winter
 Greta Crosby

Rev. Debra

MORRIS DANCE

Morningstar

Hop Brook Morris, 2019
 Max Sheldon & Tom Kruskal, concertina

HYMN #226

People Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
 Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
 People look east and sing today: Love, the Guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth be bare, one more seed is planted there.
 Give up your strength, the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
 People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
 Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
 People look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

READING

Snowy Night
 Mary Oliver

Rev. Marjorie

OFFERING

Bantry Bay
 Tom Kruskal & Friends
 From *Over the Water* CD, 1993

Tom Kruskal, concertina
 John Dexter, viola & fiddle
 Jim Morrison, fiddle
 Robert Jospe, drums

MUMMERS PLAY AND SWORD DANCE

Hop Brook Morris

HYMN #235

Deck the Halls

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,

fa la la la la, la la la la.

'Tis the season to be jolly,

fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel,

fa la la, la la la, la la la.

Troll the ancient yuletide carol,

fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the blazing Yule before us,

fa la la la la, la la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus,

fa la la la la, la la la la.

Follow me in merry measure,

fa la la, la la la, la la la.

While I tell of Yuletide treasure,

fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes,

fa la la la la, la la la la.

Hail, the new, ye lads and lasses,

fa la la la la, la la la la.

Sing we joyous all together,

fa la la la la la, la la la.

Heedless of the wind and weather,

fa la la la la, la la la la.

RAPPER SWORD DANCE

Pocketflyers

READING

Shortest Day

Rev. Debra

Susan Cooper

CLOSING WORDS

Rev. Marjorie

POSTLUDE

The Quaker

Tom Kruskal & Friends
From *Over the Water* CD, 1993

Tom Kruskal, concertina
John Dexter, viola & fiddle
Jim Morrison, fiddle
Robert Jospe, drums

Revels at First Parish

Winter is upon us. The longest night. The shortest day. It is that time of year when darkness triumphs. It is the time when we are awake in the night, dancing, singing, reveling to bring back the light, to call the sun from the womb of night.

Why do we do this? Why here, in this tradition-filled white meeting house are we dancing and reveling and reenacting ancient rituals originally designed to bring back the sun and ensure the rebirth of the natural world?

Is this a worship service? We think that it is. And more than that, it is a collection of many ancient traditions sifted and mixed here at First Parish over many years so that, now, it is also a First Parish of Sudbury tradition.

You see, for so many ancient peoples, their relationship to nature was so elemental that it was sacred. The sun was the source of life; the night was death. As they began to chronicle certain natural cycles, they also introduced certain rituals. They lit fires to lure back the sun. They made noise and stomped and jumped to wake up the sun.

So why do we do it here? We dance and revel because it honors earth-centered traditions, which, as contemporary Unitarian Universalists, we cite as one of many sources of meanings for ourselves. We dance and revel because we have talented adults willing to share their passion for these sacred and folk traditions so many talented youth who have been studying these traditional dances throughout their years here at First Parish.

We do it for the same reason we do so many other things here: it builds and sustains our community. Working in teams, young people and adults get to know each other and to collaborate.

For us, it's holy because of the human bonds it creates. It's holy because it revives ancient, holy traditions. It's church because it's our church, our tradition, something that grew organically from the exuberance and talents of people here.

*There is something beautiful and strange in this music.
To hear it is to believe that Morris dancing was a sacred rite.*

~ Rev. Katie Lee Crane, Minister Emerita

Today's service 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 the dancers and players for this morning's Revelry service!

Prelude - Abbots Bromley: Paul Leahy, Peter Kruskal, Lily Leahy, Deborah Kruskal, Esme Leahy, Maeve Leahy

Morris Dance - Morningstar: Anson Richman, Josh Richman, Carly Woll, Francis Tucker, Tim Sheldon, Nora O'Brien, Max Sheldon

Mummers Play and Sword Dance: (In order of appearance)

Devon Curry, Nelson Conrad, Jessica Majno, David Burkhardt, Kate Von Brinken, Joanna Roper, Kristen Fleischman-Rose, Erika Roderick

Sword dancers: Molly Roderick, Lyndsey Majno, Chris Ahern, Erika Roper, Sara Anderson, Teagan Curry, Allison Morgan, Kyle Wakefield, Colin Ahern

Rapper Sword Dance: Amelia Mason, Erika Roderick, Gillian Stewart, Erica Roper, Sylvie Lam, Natty Smith

Dance Teacher & Musician: Tom Kruskal

Special Thanks to Laura Swanson for her help with Hopbrook and the sword dance, and Noni Lewis for directing the Mummers Play.

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.

ONE LICENSE #A-736559

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)

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.