



First Parish of Sudbury

*Ignite your spirit
Nurture your values
Join our community*

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

From Here...



Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

January 10, 2021

GATHERING TONE

PRELUDE

Freedom and Justice
Music & lyrics by Elizabeth Alexander
Performance by Gary Rue

WELCOME & OPENING WORDS

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

CHALICE LIGHTING

Rev. Marjorie

Flame, friend of our most ancient ancestors...
you burn always, in the unique worth of each person,
in the imagination, in the turning of the heart to sorrow or joy...

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!

READING

We Will Remain Vigilant
Unitarian Universalist Association

Rev. Marjorie

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Pages, from “Kindling”

2nd movement of the cantata “Kindling: Small Reflections on a Limitless Faith”

Music & lyrics by Elizabeth Alexander

Performance by Harmonium Choral Society with conductor Anne Matlack

SERMON

Rev. Marjorie

SILENT MEDITATION

OFFERING

No Ordinary Song

Music & lyrics by Elizabeth Alexander

Performance by Laura Betinis Healy & Anthony Healy

CHALICE EXTINGUISHING

Rev. Marjorie

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

Rev. Marjorie

POSTLUDE

Fighting Over What We Believe

Music & lyrics by Elizabeth Alexander

Video directed & edited by Stephen Alexander

Today's social 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.

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Notes on Today's Music

Prelude

Freedom and Justice

<https://youtu.be/3QJU4YwwA>

Musical Interlude

Pages, from "Kindling"

2nd movement of the cantata "Kindling: Small Reflections on Limitless Faith"

<https://youtu.be/U5O-C525Ts0>

Moving forward with the patient, deliberate steps of visionary souls past and present, "Pages" surveys the challenges of the world with clear-eyed compassion and resolve. By turns both heart-lifting and heart-rending, it concludes with a call to action for all people of conscience.

On the pages of the morning paper,
People rebuild shattered schools and restore lifeless lakes,
Knit reconciliation out of promise and pain,
And sing to the deathly ill and the newly born.
Constitutions are still being written,
And slaves freed, and truces forged.
We finish our breakfasts and roll up our own sleeves.

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Offering

No Ordinary Song

<https://youtu.be/dezx8ZrAqAU>

As we lift our voices on this day,
Many hearts are heavy with despair.
How can our lifted voices find a way
To bring us one step closer to repair?
If a wounded world we wish to heal,
We must sing no ordinary song.
Make it a cadence relevant and real,
Its every measure purposeful and strong.
Let this song our greatest hopes contain:
Well-fed children be its just refrain,
Roofs over every heartbeat be its tune,
Its harmony from peaceful cities hewn.

Sing of hope while hammering each nail.
Sing of joy while pulling every weed.
Sing to renew a covenant grown frail.
May every alleluia plant a seed.

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“We are all made less whole by the broken covenant, and we are all called to the mending wall. This is the awareness that can, actually, make “every alleluia plant a seed.” -E.A.

Postlude

Fighting Over What We Believe

https://youtu.be/hnjU_LO4YDw

“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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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)

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.