



First Parish of Sudbury

*Ignite your spirit
Nurture your values
Join our community*

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Follow the Yellow Brick Road: The First Step...



Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

January 24, 2021

GATHERING TONE

PRELUDE

Where There is Light in the Soul
Chinese Proverb
Music by Elizabeth Alexander

First Parish Choir

WELCOME & OPENING WORDS

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

CHALICE LIGHTING

Rev. Marjorie

In the soft light of this flame may our lives shimmer anew.
May we notice new possibility in those relationships that seem lost.
May the turning of year give birth to a dream.
May the emerging light pull a new story into view.
May what is, give way to what might be.
May we believe again in the world we imagine.

HYMN #114

Forward Through the Ages

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine:
gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
manifold the service, on the sure reward.
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Wider grows the vision, realms of love and light;
for it we must labor, till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified,
poets sung its glory, heroes for it died.
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
in each loss or triumph lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
move we on together to the shining goal.
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

READING	<i>Inauguration</i> Amanda Gorman	Rev. Marjorie
MUSICAL INTERLUDE	<i>Meditation - I</i> Clif Hardin	Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett, piano
SERMON		Rev. Marjorie
SILENT MEDITATION		
OFFERING	<i>Faith is the Word that Feels the Light</i> From "Fireflies," by Rabindranath Tagore Music by Elizabeth Alexander <i>Faith is the word that feels the light</i> <i>And sings when the dawn is still dark</i>	Women of the FPS Choir
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	<i>Into the Silent Darkness</i> Adapted by the composer from Richard S. Gilbert Music by Elizabeth Alexander	First Parish Choir Alex Andrews, flute

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 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

The Prelude, Offering, and Postlude were taken from previous Music Sundays performed in April 2010 and November 2011.

Where There is Light in the Soul

Chinese Proverb

Music by Elizabeth Alexander

A rich and soulful affirmation of a Chinese proverb praising the five interdependent ideals of Light, Beauty, Harmony, Honor, and Peace. These five ideals are given distinctive characters or "musical signatures," which are then deftly woven together into a well-blended whole.

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.

Faith is the Bird That Feels the Light

From Fireflies, by Rabindranath Tagore

Music by Elizabeth Alexander

A soulful rendering of Rabindranath Tagore's poetic aphorism on faith, featuring a rich alto solo, jazz and blues inflections, and a dazzling final chord.

Faith is the bird that feels the light

And sings when the dawn is still dark.

Into the Silent Darkness

Original text © by Richard S. Gilbert.

Lyric adapted by the composer from Richard S. Gilbert

Elizabeth Alexander, music

The names for God are many, including the one invoked in this atmospheric work: "The Beyond From Which We Come." A sense of awe and mystery pervades this prayer, which embraces the fear and faith arising from this awe. Unfolding slowly, this unforgettable meditation culminates in cascades of whispered alleluias, echoed hauntingly by the flute.

The Beyond from which we come
Is hidden in dark moist mysteries of primeval mud
And the silence between the stars,
Dwells in the recesses of the soul,
Beckons us into a wilderness,
Reveals itself at its own bidding.
From its vast complexity
Arises simple ecstasy.
We go forth in fear and faith,
Knowing not what we will find —
We sing our alleluias into the silent darkness,
To the Beyond from which we come.

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.