Ostara Sunday

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

April 4, 2021
GATHERING TONE

PRELUDE

*From Acquaintance With Nature*

Texts taken from Thoreau’s Walden and the Journals

Gwyneth Walker, music

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

CHALICE LIGHTING

Holy are the places of memory,
the places which have formed us,
where we...gather threads and pieces of what we would
become...

Holy are the places of change and pain...
where the rivers of our lives run white and fast,
and we hold on, hold on and grow...

Holy is the act of lighting this chalice in honor of this one
precious life...

READING

*The Story of Winter*

Gail and Jan Hardenbergh

STORY FOR ALL AGES

After The Fall

Dan Santat

HYMN #38

*Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain’s new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.
Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God’s recreation of the new day!

READING
The Story of Our Lives
Pat Lewis
Erik Wikstrom

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
Springtime Will Come
Performed by Lea Morris, guitar and vocals & Yana Nikol, flute
By Nick Newlin (with Lea Morris)

SERMON
Rev. Marjorie

SILENT MEDITATION

OFFERING
Canticle of Brother Sun
FPS Choir
From Missa Gaia - Earth Mass
Text from St. Francis of Assisi, Book of Job, and F.S. Pierpont
Music by Jim Scott and Paul Winter

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
The Blue Green Hills of Earth
First Parish Choir
Maya Bloom, soloist
From Missa Gaia - Earth Mass
Text & Music by Kim Oler
Choral setting by Paul Halley
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

Prelude

Mornings
From Acquaintance With Nature
Texts taken from Thoreau’s Walden and the Journals,
Gwyneth Walker, music

Morning.
There are from time to time mornings, both in summer and in winter,
Mornings, when especially the world seems anew.

The world has been recreated in the night, Mornings of creation, I call them.
It is the poet’s hour. Mornings when we are newborn, we who have the seeds
of life in us.
Mornings!

Musical Interlude

Springtime Will Come
by Nick Newlin (with Lea Morris)

This old world may be sleepin’
We have been dreamin’
Dreaming of a brighter day
Some of us keeping
Our minds on the reason
A beautiful season
Is coming our way
Today

Hey little flower
You’ve got the power
To push through green blankets
Ready to grow
Hey there sweet Bluebird
Tell me what you heard
I want to sing that
Great song that you know
CHORUS
Wake from your slumber
Try to remember
A time when we all were
Together as one
A new day is coming
Yes. There will be sunshine
Wipe away teardrops
Springtime will come

It’s been so lonely
But that was only
Our chance to realize
The love that we need
Come, take my hand now
Let’s make a plan how
To stay wide awake
Let’s fly,
you and me
Away

CHORUS
Wake from your slumber
Try to remember
A time when we all were
Together as one
A new day has come
Tell me you feel the sun
Wipe away teardrops
Springtime has come

I’m wide awake now

The Offering and Postlude for this morning’s service are from Missa Gaia – Earth Mass by Paul Winter, Jim Scott, Paul Halley, Oscar Castro-Neves, and Kim Oler. It is an ecological and ecumenical Mass in celebration of Mother Earth.
These recordings are from our 2007 Spring Music Sunday with Maya Bloom as soprano soloist and guest musicians including:

- Jim Scott, guitar and vocals
- Stan Strickland, saxophone
- Kathryn Rosenbach, piano
- Sarah Hartman, cello
- Mark Kohler and Bill MacGillivray, drums and percussion

Throughout, this work incorporates recordings of various animal “songs” including wolves, humpback whales and harp seal pups.

**Offering**

*Canticle of Brother Sun*

From Missa Gaia-Earth Mass

Text: St. Francis of Assisi, Book of Job, and F.S. Pierpont

Music: Jim Scott and Paul Winter

All praise be yours through Brother Sun,
All praise be yours through Sister Moon.
By Mother Earth my Lord be praised,
By Brother Mountain, Sister Sea.
Through Brother Wind and Brother Air,
Through Sister Water, Brother Fire;
The stars above give thanks to thee;
All praise to those who live in peace.

All praise be yours through Brother Wolf,
All praise be yours through Sister Whale.
By Nature’s song my Lord be praised,
By Brother Eagle, Sister Loon.
Through Brother Tiger, Sister Seal,
Through Sister Flower, Brother Tree.
Let creatures all give thanks to thee.
All praise to those who live in peace.

Ask of the beasts and they shall teach you the beauty of the earth.
Ask of the trees and they shall teach you the beauty of the earth.
Ask of the winds and they shall teach you 
the beauty of the earth. 
Ask of the flowers and they shall teach you 
the beauty of the earth.

For the beauty of the Earth, 
sing oh sing today. 
Of the sky and of our birth, 
sing oh sing always.

Nature, human and divine, 
all around us lies. 
Lord of all, to thee we raise 
grateful hymns of praise.  
Brother Sun.

**Postlude**

*The Blue Green Hills of Earth*

From Missa Gaia-Earth Mass  
Text & Music: Kim Oler  
Choral setting by Paul Halley

For the earth, forever turning;  
For the skies, for all the seas;  
For our lives, for all we cherish,  
Sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the mountains, hills, and pastures;  
In their silent majesty;  
For the stars, for all the heavens,  
Sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the sun, for rain and thunder;  
For the seasons’ harmony;  
For our lives, for all creation,  
Sing we our joyful praise to Thee.
For the world we raise our voices,
For the home that gives us birth;
In our joy, we sing, returning,
Home to our blue-green hills of earth.

- words & music by Kim Oler, 1990

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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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.