



First Parish of Sudbury

*Ignite your spirit
Nurture your values
Join our community*

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Doorway of Loneliness



Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, 10 am

Rev. Kathleen Hepler

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kathleen

CENTERING TONE

PRELUDE

Rev. Debra

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHALICE LIGHTING

Together we light this chalice, symbol of Unitarian Universalism. May this flame bring us to a deep respect for the winter celebrations of human communities through time.

HYMN #221

Light One Candle

Words & music by Peter Yarrow, arr. by Betty A. Wylder

Light one candle for the Maccabee children with thanks that their light didn't die.
Light one candle for the pain they endured when their right to exist was denied.
Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice justice and freedom demand.
But light one candle for the wisdom to know when the peacemaker's time is at hand.

(Chorus)

Don't let the light go out, it's lasted for so many years.

Don't let the light go out, let it shine through our love and our tears.

Light one candle for the strength that we need to never become our own foe.
Light one candle for those who are suffering the pain we learned so long ago.
Light one candle for all we believe in, that anger won't tear us apart.
And light one candle to bring us together with peace as the song in our heart.

(Chorus)

What is the mem'ry that's valued so highly we keep it alive in that flame?
What's the commitment to those who have died when we cry out they've not died
in vain?
Have we come this far always believing that justice would somehow prevail?
This is the burden and this is the promise and this is why we will not fail.

(Chorus)

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Michelle Cote

LANTERN MUSIC Now we bless you on your way
Words and music by Jen Rathbun

Now we bless you on your way
May you feel love every day.
May your light, shining bright,
Transform the world...(repeat)
...with love.

MILESTONES

Fred Pryor

MEDITATION/PRAYER

INTERLUDE

You Do Not Walk Alone

First Parish Choir

Words: Trad. Irish Blessing, Music: Elaine Hagenberg

May you see God's light on the path ahead
when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear even in your hour of sorrow,
the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard
may hardness never turn your heart to stone.
May you always remember when the shadows fall—
You do not walk alone.

READING

MUSIC

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

First Parish Choir

Words & music: African American spiritual, c. 1750-1875

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
a long way from home, a long way from home.

Sometimes I feel like I have no friend,
sometimes I feel like I have no friend,
sometimes I feel like I have no friend,
a long way from home, a long way from home.

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone,
sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone,
sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone,
a long way from home, a long way from home.

SERMON

OFFERING

Rev. Debra

HYMN#1064

Blue Boat Home

Words: Peter Mayer, Music: Roland Hugh Prichard,
keyboard arr. Jason Shelton

Though below me, I feel no motion standing on these mountains and plains.
Far away from the rolling ocean still my dry land heart can say:
I've been sailing all my life now, never harbor or port have I known.
The wide universe is the ocean I travel and the earth is my blue boat home.

Sun my sail and moon my rudder as I ply the starry sea,
leaning over the edge in wonder, casting questions into the deep.
Drifting here with my ship's companions, all we kindred pilgrim souls,
making our way by the lights of the heavens in our beautiful blue boat home.

I give thanks to the waves up holding me, hail the great winds urging me on,
greet the infinite sea before me, sing the sky my sailor's song:
I was born up on the fathoms, never harbor or port have I known.
The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHALICE

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.

POSTLUDE

Rev. Debra

CLOSING WORDS

MUSIC FOR GOING FORTH

**Today's flowers are dedicated in memory of
Peggy & Paul Hartman, and Ed Coil**

Thanks to today's Musicians

Milestones: Fred Pryor

Usher/Greeters: Carolyn Lee, Steve Gabeler

Social hours: Michele & Clark Rothauser

RE/Nursery assistants: Tia Herrman, Jenny Smith

Tech Help: Dave Andrews, Terry Lockhart, Michael Tyo

Flowers: Sara Hartman

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, bisexual, questioning, queer, intersex, asexual and others 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 exploration program, or would like to speak to our minister, please feel free to reach out to Office Administrator, Tanja Fischer for assistance.

Board of Trustees

Sherri Cline (Chair), Jan Hardenbergh, Tom Kruskal,
Colin Warwick, Bill Aldrich

Officers

Treasurer: Tom Kruskal
Moderator: Fred Pryor
Clerk: Alex Andrews

Staff

Minister: Rev. Kathleen Hepler (revkhepler@fpsudbury.org)
Minister of Music: Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett (musicdir@fpsudbury.org)
Director of Religious Exploration: Michelle Cote (redirector@fpsudbury.org)
Office Administrator: Tanja Fischer (office@fpsudbury.org)

Pastoral Associates

Fred Pryor, Lois Schiappa, Bruce Porter, Mary Ellen French,
Toni Trone, Fran Sharp