



First Parish of
Sudbury

*Ignite your spirit
Nurture your values
Join our community*

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation



WHY AN EASTER CELEBRATION?

Sunday, April 5, 2026, 10 am

Rev. Kathleen Hepler

Many Different Beliefs.

One Welcoming Community.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kathleen Hepler

CENTERING TONE

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken

Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett

By Clif Hardin

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHALICE LIGHTING

For holy days on which we recall the old stories,
We light this flame.

For Passover, which reminds us of the courage and strength of those
through time, who have labored for freedom,
We kindle this light.

For Easter, which reminds us that love is our greatest calling,
We light this chalice and honor the light in all beings.

HYMN #269

Lo, the Day of Days Is Here

Words: from Frederick Lucian Hosmer

Music: Robert Williams, harmony by John Roberts

Lo, the day of days is here, Alleluia!
Festival of hope and cheer! Alleluia!
At the south wind's genial breath — Alleluia!
Nature wakes from seeming death, Alleluia!

Fields are smiling in the sun, Alleluia!
Loosened streamlets seaward run, Alleluia!
Tender blade and leaf appear; Alleluia!
'Tis the spring-tide of the year, Alleluia!

Lo, the Eastertide is here, Alleluia!
Music thrills the atmosphere. Alleluia!
Join, you people all, and sing — Alleluia!
Love and praise and thanksgiving, Alleluia!

READING

MEDITATION AND SILENCE

INTERLUDE

Alleluia Madrigal

First Parish Choir

Words & music by Donald Moore

Sing we alleluia!

READING

HYMN #276

O Young and Fearless Prophet

Words: S. Ralph Harlow, music: William Lloyd

O young and fearless Prophet of ancient Galilee:
your life is still a summons to serve humanity,
to make our thoughts and actions less prone to please the crowd,
to stand with humble courage for truth with hearts unbowed.

O help us stand unswerving against war's bloody way,
where hate and lust and falsehood hold back your holy sway;
forbid false love of country, that turns us from your call
who lifts above the nation the neighborhood of all.

Create in us the splendor that dawns when hearts are kind,
that knows not race nor station as bound'ries of the mind;
that learns to value beauty, in heart, or mind, or soul,
and longs to see God's children as sacred, perfect, whole.

Stir up in us a protest against unneeded wealth;
for some go starved and hungry who plead for work and health.
Once more give us your challenge above our noisy day,
and come to lead us forward along your holy way.

SERMON

Why an Easter Celebration?

Rev. Kathleen

HYMN #368

Now Let Us Sing

Words & music: Anonymous

Now let us sing, sing, sing	Sing to the power of the faith within.
Now let us sing, sing, sing	Sing to the power of the faith within.
Lift up your voice, be not afraid;	Lift up your voice, be not afraid;
sing to the power of the faith within.	sing to the power of the faith within.

Sing to the power of **the hope** within

Sing to the power of **the love** within ...

Sing to the power of **the joy** within ...

OFFERTORY

Rev. Debra

EXTINGUISHING 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

Flowers from the Flower Fund

Please join us for coffee and conversation downstairs in the Parish Hall!

WELCOME

We are a welcoming congregation and have committed to welcoming the presence and participation of all persons who share our values, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, skin color, immigration status, economic situation, education, political or religious ideology.

We hope you'll join our non-creedal beloved community!

If you are new to the area or to First Parish, we invite you to fill out a newcomer card to get our newsletter. 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 our office (office@fpsudbury.org) for assistance.

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Pastoral Associates

Kristy Gish, Emarie Pope, Fred Pryor, Fran Sharp, Steve Smith

Thanks to today's Musicians

Milestones:

Usher/Greeters:

Social hour: Leslie Lowe and Tom Yelton

Flowers: The Flower Fund

RE/Nursery assistants: Nathan Marble, Martina Harutunian

Tech Help: Dave Andrews, Terry Lockhart, Michael Tyo

***Offering**

By text message: Simply text 833-448-6403 with the amount you would like to give in the body of your text (over \$3). Thank you for your generosity!