First Parish of Sudbury

Ignite your spirit
Nurture your values
Join our community

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Aiden McMahon, Minister In Residence

Many Different Beliefs.

One Welcoming Community.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS — Aiden McMahon

CENTERING TONE

PRELUDE — Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett

CALL TO WORSHIP — *The Last Leaf* by David M. Horst — Aiden McMahon

HYMN #54 — *Now Light Is Less*

words: Theodore Roethke; music: Alfred Morton Smith

Now light is less; noon skies are wide and deep;
the ravages of wind and rain are healed.
The haze of harvest drifts along the field
until clear eyes put on the look of sleep.

The garden spider weaves a silken pear
to keep inclement weather from its young.
Straight from the oak, the gossamer is hung.
At dusk our slow breath thickens on the air.

Lost hues of birds the trees take as their own.
Long since, bronze wheat was gathered into sheaves.
The walker trudges ankle deep in leaves;
the feather of the milkweed flutters down.

The shoots of spring have mellowed with the year.
Buds, long unsealed, obscure the narrow lane.
The blood slows trance-like in the altered vein;
our vernal wisdom moves through ripe to sere.

CHALICE LIGHTING *The Seasons of Life* Aiden McMahon
by Mary Frances Comer

MILESTONES Fred Pryor

OBSERVANCE Aiden McMahon

INTERLUDE *Reflections* Rev. Debra
by Ola Gjeilo

RESPONSORIAL #720 *We Remember Them*
by Roland B. Gittelsohn

HYMN #336 *All My Memories of Love*
words: Anna Akhmatova; trans. by Mark Belletini;
music: Solesmes version of plainsong melody, adapted

All my memories of love hang upon high stars.
All the souls I've lost to tears now the autumn jars;
and the air around me here thickens with their song;
sing again their nameless tunes, sing again, and strong.

Willows in September touch the water clear,
set among the rushes tall of the flowing year.
Rising up from sunlit past comes the shadowed sigh
running toward me silently, love to fortify.

Many are the graceful hearts hung upon this tree.
And it seems there's room for mine on these branches free;
and the sky above the tree, whether wet or bright,
is my ease and comforting, my good news and light.

REFLECTION Memorial Garden Valerie Tratnyek

HYMN #1001 *Breaths*

Words: adapted poem by Birago Diop; music: Ysaye M. Barnwell

Refrain:
Listen more often to things than to beings,
listen more often to things than to beings,
'tis the Ancestor's breath when the fire's voice is heard,
'tis the Ancestor's breath in the voice of the waters.
Zah Whsshh Aahh Whsshh

Those who have died have never, never left.
The dead are not under the earth.
They are in the rustling trees,
they are in the groaning woods,
they are in the crying grass,
they are in the moaning rocks.
The dead are not under the earth.

Refrain

Those who have died have never, never left.
The dead have a pact with the living.
They are in the woman's breast,
they are in the wailing child,
they are with us in our homes,
they are with us in this crowd.
The dead have a pact with the living.

Refrain

OFFERTORY *Where There is Light in the Soul* First Parish Choir

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.

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE All

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.

BENEDICTION Aiden McMahon

POSTLUDE Rev. Debra

Today's flowers are donated by Suzanne Steinbach:
In memory of my grandparents,
Carl Oscar and Ruth Ingeborg Johnson.

Please join us for coffee and conversation 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 or would like to speak to our minister, please feel free to contact our office for assistance.

Board of Trustees

Bill Aldrich, Steve Baker, Allison Goldfarb, Deb Mackey, Colin Warwick

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Treasurer: Colin Warwick; **Moderator**: Fred Pryor
Clerk: Alex Andrews; **CORI Administrator**: Fran Sharp

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Minister in Residence: Aiden McMahon (aiden@fpsudbury.org)
Minister of Music: Rev. Debra Morris-Bennett (musicdir@fpsudbury.org)
Office Administrator: Randal Divinski (office@fpsudbury.org)

Pastoral Associates: Kristy Gish, Emarie Pope, Fred Pryor, Fran Sharp, Steve Smith

Thanks to Today's Helpers

Milestones: Fred Prior
Ushers/Greeters:
Social Hour: Sheila Davison, Marjorie Keene
Flowers: Suzanne Steinbach
Nursery/Childcare assistants: Nathan Marble, Martina Harutunian

***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). We thank you for your generosity!