

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 a part.

If you are new to First Parish, we invite you to sign our guest book. If you have questions, would like to learn about our religious education program, or would like to speak to our minister, please ask a greeter for assistance.

Every program at First Parish is funded by voluntary contributions. Members and friends make pledges during our annual canvass. If you wish to find out how to make a pledge at another time, please speak to the Assistant Treasurer or to a greeter. Thank you and welcome.

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Director of Lifespan Religious Education: Roberta Altamari
(dre@fpsudbury.org)
Congregational Administrator: Donna Scalcione
(office@fpsudbury.org)
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-Noon

FIRST PARISH of SUDBURY
UNITARIAN UNVERSALIST
327 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776
978-443-2043 www.fpsudbury.org

Listen to selected services on our Website.

First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist

November 24, 2013



*The Great Trees
by Gwyneth Walker*

CENTERING BELL

A meditation bell invites us to quiet contemplation.

Please turn off cell phones, blackberries and similar devices that can interfere with our hearing assistance technology.

PRELUDE *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano* “Genesis”

1. “The Sea and the Land” Hunter Bennett, clarinet
2. “The Creatures Thereon” Noriko Yasuda, piano
by Gwyneth Walker

WELCOME

Carolyn Lee

GREETINGS AND OPENING WORDS Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

*HYMN 163 *For the Earth Forever Turning*

UNISON CHALICE LIGHTING Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

At this hour, in small towns and big cities,
in single rooms and ornate sanctuaries, other Unitarian Universalist
congregations are also lighting a flaming chalice.

As we light our chalice and raise our voices in song this morning,
let us remember that we are part of a great community of faith.

May this dancing flame inspire us to fill our lives
with human ideals of love, hope, justice and truth.

Adapted from Judith L. Quarles

(Children and their Guides leave for Religious Education)

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *Quiet Wonder* First Parish ChoirREADING *In Blackwater Woods* by Mary Oliver
Rev. Dr. Marjorie MattyOFFERING *Semplice* by Gwyneth Walker Noriko Yasuda, piano

Today We Give the Plate to Philippine Relief Judy Deutsch

READING/PRAYER /MEDITATION Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

MUSICAL OFFERING *The Great Trees* by Gwyneth Walker
First Parish Choir

1. *The Peace of Wild Things*
2. *The Silence*
3. *The Dark Around Us*
4. *The Steps of the City*
5. *The Timbered Choir*

MOMENT OF SILENCE Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

*HYMN 77 *Seek Not Afar for Beauty*

UNISON EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE Carolyn Lee

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.
- Elizabeth Selle Jones

CLOSING WORDS Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty

(Please be seated for the Postlude and remain seated until the music ends)

POSTLUDE *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano* “Genesis”

- 3 “The Heavens Above”
“the human spirit reaching to the heavens above”
by Gwyneth Walker Hunter Bennett, clarinet
Noriko Yasuda, piano

* Please stand, in body and/or spirit.

Special Requests

Please remember to turn off all cell phones, pagers and data devices.

Please do not take photos during the service.

We ask that you refrain from applause during the worship service.

Texts for Choral Pieces:

Quiet Wonder Words and music by Gwyneth Walker

I walk this earth in quiet wonder.

The beauty surrounds me, surprises me, overwhelms me.

Quiet wonder, quiet wonder

A small brook babbles in the forest.

I fall to my knees in prayer:

O God, my Creator, the Spirit riding on the wind,

teach me to be a shepherd of the Earth,

to protect her waters pure...

her forests of silent majesty,

her creatures large and small...

Hopping, swimming, gliding, galloping, soaring to heaven.

O God, my Creator, the Spirit riding on the wind,

guide me in wisdom and caring,

to keep this sacred beauty for all generations to come

Hopping, swimming, gliding, galloping, soaring to heaven.

I would be a shepherd of the Earth.

Quiet wonder, I walk this earth in quiet wonder.

The Great Trees

Texts by Wendell Berry, Music by Gwyneth Walker

The Great Trees: No. 1 - The Peace of Wild Things

When despair grows in me

and I wake in the middle of the night at the least sound

in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,

I go and lie down where the wood drake

rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things

who do not tax their lives with forethought

of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars

waiting for their light. For a time

I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

From The Collected Poems of Wendell Berry, 1957-1982

The Great Trees: No. 2 - The Silence

Though the air is full of singing

my head is loud

with the labor of words.

Though the season is rich

with fruit, my tongue

hungers for the sweet of speech.

Though the beech is golden

I cannot stand beside it

mute, but must say

"It is golden," while the leaves

stir and fall with a sound

that is not a name.

It is in the silence

that my hope is, and my aim.

A song whose lines

I cannot make or sing

sounds men's silence

like a root. Let me say

and not mourn: the world

lives in the death of speech

and sings there.

From The Collected Poems of Wendell Berry, 1957-1982

The Great Trees: No. 3 - The Dark Around Us

The dark around us, come,
Let us meet here together,
Members of one another,
Here in our holy room,
Here on our little floor,
Here in the daylight sky,
Rejoicing mind and eye,
Rejoining known and knower,

Light, leaf, foot, hand, and wing,
Such order as we know,
One household, high and low,
And all the earth shall sing. "

From A Timbered Choir: The Sabbath Poems 1979-1997

The Great Trees: No. 4 - The Steps of the City

I stood and heard the steps of the city
and dreamed a lighter stepping than I heard,
the tread of my people dancing in a ring.
I knew that circle broken, the steps awry,
stone and iron humming in the air.

But I thought even there, among the straying
steps, of the dance that circles life around,
its shadows moving on the ground, in rhyme
of flesh with flesh, time with time, our bliss,
the earthly song that heavenly is.

From The Collected Poems of Wendell Berry, 1957-1982

The Great Trees: No. 5 - The Timbered Choir

Slowly, slowly they return
To the small woodland let alone:
Great trees, outspreading and bright,
Apostles of the living light.

Patient as stars, they build in air
Tier after tier a timbered choir,
Stout beams upholding weightless grace
Of song, a blessing on this place.

They stand in waiting all around,
Uprisings of their native ground.
Downcomings of the distant light;
They are the advent they await.

Receiving sun and giving shade,
Their life's a benefaction made,
And is a benediction said
Over the living and the dead.

In fall their brightened leaves, released,
Fly down the wind, and we are pleased
To walk on radiance, amazed.
O light come down to earth, be praised!

From A Timbered Choir: The Sabbath Poems 1979-1997



Program Notes

Quiet Wonder was written to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Charles Page as Music Director of First Church, Springfield, Massachusetts. He suggested an anthem in praise of the beauty of the earth. This is a delicate work, opening and closing with a “bird call.” It was inspired by the environs of the composer’s home in Braintree, Vermont, especially the beloved swimming pond.

The Great Trees are musical settings of the poetry of Wendell Berry. The poetry and music focus on the beauty and spirituality of nature – trees, birds, still water – “one household, high and low.”

Five poems have been selected for this set. Numbers 1, 3 and 5 are generally descriptive in character: quiet beauty (“The Peace of Wild Things”); a clearing in the woods (“The Dark Around Us”) and great trees rising to heaven (“The Timbered Choir”). These songs are scored for SATB chorus and piano with and without clarinet. Poems 2 and 4 are more introspective (“Silence” and “The Steps of the City”) and are composed for solo voice, clarinet and piano.

The clarinet is a featured element in this work. It was chosen for this role due to its gentle, “wood”-wind sonority and appearance. In the first song, the clarinet portrays a lone bird in flight. In the second song, the clarinet provides commentary to the solo voice. Clarinet becomes the essence of the dance in the fourth song, and rises in range with the great trees in the finale.

The Great Trees is an expression of ecstatic reverence for the spiritual presence in nature. This expression ranges from the peaceful reverence of the “grace of the world” to the celebratory reverence of “O light come down to earth, be praised!”

The *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano* was composed in response to the recent Tsunami devastation to the land and peoples bordering the Indian Ocean. Images of complete devastation filled the media. It appeared that in some areas, all traces of civilization and humanity had been washed away. The land lay clear, barren and unformed. It was as though the world was starting anew. There was only the sea and the land.

And yet many creatures, guided by their natural instincts, had escaped annihilation. They had fled to higher ground. And then, in the face of immense loss, survivors emerged. A resilient human spirit came forth. This *Sonata* is called “Genesis” for it springs from images of the beginning of the world: the sea and the land, then the creatures on the earth, and then the human spirit rising to the heavens above. This music is intended as a testament to the power of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

A very special addition to today’s service is the display of nature-inspired art works by local First Parish artists. We wish to thank them for sharing their personal connection to nature through their various artistic perspectives. Please make sure to take time to enjoy them.

The following artists have contributed works that are being displayed in the sanctuary and in the Parish Hall.

Tom Arnold	Carolyn Lee
Roxanne Chichowlas	Polly Meltzer
Julia Eddy	Sheila Murphy
Stephen Gabeler	Helen Russell
Bridget Hanson	Evan Sobkowicz
June Hopkins	Michael Tyo
Marge Langmuir	

About the clarinet Hunter is playing: it is constructed of Grenadilla – a tree in the rosewood genus from Africa. It is particularly dense (tight grain) and produces a tone quality favored for clarinet, oboe, and flute.

About the music stand Hunter is using: This stand was built by Steve Gabeler and is mainly constructed of three American Hardwoods – Walnut, Cherry and Hickory – with adjustment knobs of Bubinga from Africa.

About the cover photo: This photo of a Pitch Pine tree on the south ridge of Dorr Mt. in Arcadia was taken by Steve Gabeler.

Choir

Sopranos

Maya Bloom
Julia Dixon-Eddy
Judy Handley
Celia Hinrichs
Marge Langmuir
Cilla Reising

Tenors

Saul Bloom
Rich Davison
Tom Kruskal
Maria Von Brincken

Altos

Sheila Davison
Eleanor Kafalas
Nina Piazza
Helen Russell

Basses

David Gray
Rob Kinslow
Terry Lockhart
Graham Taylor

Musician Bios

Maya Bloom, soprano, graduated with a B.A. in Music from Haverford College, where she studied voice with Suzanne DuPlantis. She was a featured soloist with Haverford and Bryn Mawr's Chorale in Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Händel's *Alexander's Feast* and *Messiah*, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Ms. Bloom was also a member of the select Chamber Singers for four years, where she was a section leader and, in her senior year, the choir manager. She was highlighted as a soprano in Bach's *Magnificat* and various other pieces throughout her years in Chamber Singers. Now back in the Boston area, Maya is the mezzo-soprano section leader at Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill, and has been studying with Pamela Dellal. Ms. Bloom is beginning a career as a music teacher, and conducts a second-year elementary school orchestra with The String Project at University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She recently received her Graduate Certificate in School-Based Music Methods and is pursuing her Master's of Music in Music Teaching at UMASS Lowell, where she also sings with their Chamber Singers and has been a featured soloist in the combined orchestra-choir concerts.

Maya is delighted, as always, to be back at First Parish of Sudbury, where she was raised, and to be working with Debra Morris-Bennett, who was instrumental in launching Maya's career as a vocal soloist.

Hunter Bennett, clarinetist, is equally well-versed as a chamber musician and orchestral player. He is currently a substitute clarinetist with the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as the principal clarinetist of its youth orchestra. His wind quintet, the Philharmonic Five, has won the prestigious Honors Ensemble Competition at the New England Conservatory (NEC) two years in a row and performed at many venues in Boston, including a featured concert in NEC's Jordan Hall.

An avid proponent of new music, Bennett has twice served as a member of the New England Philharmonic, an orchestra with a focus on the expanding modern repertoire, most recently in 2013. He also regularly performs on NEC's Tuesday Night New Music concert series, working with student composers and premiering their music. His writings on music theory have been published in the NEC academic journal.

A Boston native, Bennett is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree at NEC, under the tutelage of Thomas Martin. He studied previously with Steven Barta at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, as well as Boston Philharmonic clarinetist Thomas Hill.

Noriko Yasuda, pianist, began her career in Osaka Japan as an accompanist with the Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra and Osaka College of Music Opera House. In that capacity she worked with Seiji Ozawa, Toru Takemitsu, Luciano Pavarotti, Kiri Te Kanawa and Alfred Kraus, among others. A respected vocal coach and accompanist in the Boston area, she has worked with Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Baroque, Handel and Haydn Society, Chorus Pro Musica, New England String Ensemble and La Donna Musicale. Currently she is the principal coach at Longy Opera Workshop and Opera North, NH and staff accompanist/coach at Boston University Opera Institute. In 2009 she received the George Seaman Excellence in Teaching from Longy School of Music of Bard College. She travels to Japan regularly to give master classes at Osaka University of Fine Arts where she is on the visiting faculty.

Debra Morris-Bennett has been the Music Director and Organist at the First Parish of Sudbury for the past 24 years. She received a M.M. degree in Organ Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. During her tenure at First Parish she has enjoyed exploring the wide range of choral literature--both sacred and secular--that the Unitarian Universalist service embraces. Previous Music Sundays have included selections of choral pieces designed around themes such as "Spring Revival", a gospel service with Maddie Sifantus and TVS, "A Renaissance Reflection" with the Solstice Sackbuts, "Rest in the Peace of the World," and hope – "Standing at the Gate of Hope" with Hunter Bennett, clarinet. Larger works have included Carol Barnett's "The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass", Morten Lauridsen's "Lux Aeterna", Henry Mollicone's *Beatitudo Mass for the Homeless*, *Missa Gaia* by Paul Winter and Jim Scott, *Acquaintance With Nature* by Gwyneth Walker, a collaboration with Celtic harpist Áine Minogue entitled "A Celtic Harvest," and lesser known choral works of Johannes Brahms, selections of Aaron Copland, John Rutter's *Requiem*, Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, Irish choral music, Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*, and Dietrich Buxtehude's *Cantate Domini*.



Today we give the plate for Philippine Relief

Our Offering this Sunday will be given in full to Philippine Relief via the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee/Unitarian Universalist Association (UUSC/UUA) which states that it will immediately direct our contributions to Philippine relief efforts, and that it will distribute those funds where they can do the most good, using connections that the UUSC has already made. UUSC is working with and providing financial support to the following grassroots organizations to make sure that people living in society's margins aren't excluded from assistance:

- The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines, which is doing direct relief work in communities where people have lost crops, homes, and livelihoods
- IBON International, a long-term UUSC partner, which is working with the Citizen's Disaster Response Center to identify and bring

much-needed support to people most marginalized by the mainstream relief efforts

- The National Rural Women Coalition, which, with a wide network of community-based organizations of farmers and fisherpeople throughout the islands, is exceptionally well positioned to identify needs and assist survivors in recuperation of food security and livelihoods

UUSC is deploying appropriate staff to make further recommendations, deepening collaboration with those organizations as well as developing additional partnerships to serve people being overlooked in the midst of the challenging and sometimes chaotic logistics of relief work. UUSC is also drawing on a longstanding partnership with the Trauma Resource Institute to address the more invisible effects of a disaster like Typhoon Haiyan. Trauma recovery is a vital component of overall recovery, but mental health services are almost always overlooked by traditional aid agencies in the aftermath of a disaster.

If you are donating by check, please make it payable to First Parish and write "Philippine Relief" in the memo. Thank you for giving all you can.

What is happening in our Religious Education Program for Children and Youth Today



Roberta, our Director of Lifespan Religious Education is off today. Leslie will be our DRE for the day.

Please see her or any of our volunteers with questions. Feel free to email or contact Roberta tomorrow.

Our Friendship Finders (ages 2-4) will be with Anna and Kenna in classroom 2 for a "Everyone needs food and a home" activity; our SpiritPlay Mysteries (ages 4-10) will be with Sonia, Keith, and Rose in the Commons for the "the Woman Who Lived in a Vinegar Bottle" story and work time; our UU Explorers (ages 10-12) will meet in classroom 3 with Oliver, Abby, and Amy to explore the theme "Families and Traditions;" and our Breakfast Club (ages 12-14) meet in the Brackett Room with Marilyn and Pat to check-in and bonding games.

Continued on next page

Babies are welcome to stay in the sanctuary or go with you to the Parish Hall where you can listen to the service while baby plays with nursery toys. If you would like attend the service alone, Michelle would be happy to care for babies in the Parish Hall.

There will be no youth group meeting tonight.

Roberta Altamari,
Director of Religious Exploration and Youth Ministry

Thanks to today's

Offering leader, as well as

Ushers: Helga Andrews, Nancy Moore, Deborah Kruskal
and Gene Piazza

Greeters: Rebecca Parkhill and Bridget Hanson

Social Hour: Philip Ralli (coffee), Baker-Hughes family
(sweets & snacks)

Flowers: Susan Stocker and George Duval

Today

- **Olive Sale** at Social Hour. Stop by the table in the Parish Hall to get a bargain price on olives made with Eleanor Roosevelt's recipe for FDR's favorite green olives! Proceeds to the FPS budget.
- Visit the **Secret Santa Table** in the Parish Hall and choose a child to buy Holiday presents for as you Live Your Faith again.
- Morris Dancing 11:45, Commons and 4:45, Parish Hall



Today - Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship at 4:00 pm at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 16 Great Road, Sudbury, sponsored by the Sudbury Clergy Association, a community of religious professionals who serve the eleven faith communities in Sudbury. Music will include the St. John

children's chime choir. St. John is a handicapped-accessible facility. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

November

- 25 Stewardship Team
- 26 This I Believe - 7:00-8:30, Brackett
- 26 Quilting - 7:00-9:00, Brackett Room
- 26 Coffee House Task Force – 7:00-9:00, workroom
- 26 Carbon Consciousness - 7:30, Library
- 28 *Happy Thanksgiving*
- 29 Office Closed

Coming up

December

- 04 Newsletter deadline
- 07 Gathering of Men
- 07 Seeker First Saturday Potluck
- 08 Revels Worship Service
- 08 Women's Alliance Holiday Gathering
- 21 Winter Solstice Ritual
- 24 Family Worship at 5:00 pm
- 24 Candlelight Worship at 7:00 pm
- 29 Worship at Wayland First Parish UU, corner of Routes 20 & 27 in Wayland – a joint service with the Framingham and Sudbury Congregations. All are welcome.

In-Home Dinners - Watch our newsletter for more details and save the dates of Jan. 25, 26 and 31. Contact Nina P. or Fran S. to sign up to attend or host.



For a complete and up-to-date calendar listing, visit www.fpsubury.org...News/Events

Other listings/events are posted on the many bulletin boards in the Parish Hall