

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021 | 11:00 AM**

WELCOME

LORE OF THE SEASON

INVOCATION SONG - Gathered Here

Words & music by Phil Porter and performed by Jess Huetteman, Chelsea Sardoni, Morayo Akande

Gathered here in the mystery of the hour.
Gathered here in one strong body.
Gathered here in the struggle and the power.
Spirit, draw near.

KINDLING THE FLAME

Words by Matthew R. James

L: We are here together on this celebration of Beltane, May Day,
the Vernal Equitherm, as the sacred wheel of the year continues to turn.

P: *As our ancestors did, we do now, and so may our descendants in time to come.
The dark half of the year is over and the light half has begun.*

L: Earth is alive and the land is fertile. Leaves are once more upon the trees,
flowers are blooming all around and insects are searching for pollen.

P: *Warmth has returned and it is the season of love and passion, the time of fire.
We give thanks for the blessings of Mother Earth in the kindling of our Sacred Fire.*

OPENING SONG - We Are The Cosmos

Words, musics, and performance by Keith Mesecher and the Cosmic All-Stars

[Chorus:] We are the Cosmos we are stardust
We are beauty we are love
We hold in our hands all that is sacred
Earth below us heavens above

I am feeling all this wonder
All this beauty and all this love
Well I am floating in the cosmic ocean
Filled with starlight from above

Chorus

Well fill me up with exultation
Fill my heart and soul with song
And bless me with the thrill of living
Make my will and spirit strong

Chorus

I am open to the splendor
The magnificence of all that is
Yes I am swimming in the cosmic ocean
I am held by all that lives

Chorus

BLESSING THE FOUR WINDS

Words by Joan Goodwin

L: Spirit of the East, spirit of air, of morning and springtime:

P: *Be with us as the sun rises, in times of beginning, times of planting.
Inspire us with the fresh breath of courage as we go forth into new adventures.*

L: Spirit of the South, spirit of fire, of noontime and summer:

P: *Be with us through the heat of the day and help us to be ever growing.
Warm us with strength and energy for the work that awaits.*

L: Spirit of the West, spirit of water, of evening and autumn:

P: *Be with us as the sun sets, and help us to enjoy a rich harvest.
Flow through us with a cooling, healing quietness and bring us peace.*

L: Spirit of the North, spirit of earth, of nighttime and winter:

P: *Be with us in the darkness, in the time of gestation.
Ground us in the wisdom of the changing seasons as we celebrate
the spiraling journey of our lives.*

RENEWING OUR COVENANT - AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Love is the doctrine of this church;
The quest of truth is its sacrament;
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace;
To seek knowledge in freedom;
To serve humanity in Fellowship;
To the end that all souls shall grow

into harmony with the Divine, -
Thus do we covenant with each other
and with God.

COVENANT OF THE GODDESS

Words by Starhawk

MUSICAL INTERLUDE - Aria, J.S. Bach

Performance by Joohwa Park, Music Director

TIME FOR SHARING - JOYS & CONCERNS

MEDITATION OF PRESENCE

For this meditation, please bring a cup of Earth into your home.

SONG OF MEDITATION - Rising Green

Words & music by Carolyn McDade

My blood doth rise in the roots of yon oak, her sap doth run in my veins.
Boundless my soul like the open sky where the stars forever have lain.
Where the stars, where the stars, where the stars forever have lain.

My hands hold the weavings of time without end, my sight as deep as the sea.
Beating, my heart sounds the measures of old, that of love's eternity.
That of love, that of love, that of love's eternity.

I feel the tides as they answer the moon, rushing on a far distant sand.
Winging my song is the wind of my breast and my love blows over the land.
And my love, and my love, and my love blows over the land.

My foot carries days of the old into new, our dreaming shows us the way.
Wondrous our faith settles deep in the earth, rising green to bring a new day.
Rising green, rising green, rising green to bring a new day.

SEEDING OUR INTENTIONS

BARDIC OFFERING OF POETRY

Words by Teifi Dancer

ELEMENTAL GRATITUDE

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.

CLOSING SONG - Lady of the Season's Laughter

Lady of the seasons' laughter, in the summer's warmth be near;
when the winter follows after, teach our spirits not to fear.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning year.

Sister of the evening starlight, in the falling shadows stay
here among us till the far light of tomorrow's dawning ray.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning day.

Mother of the generations, in whose love all life is worth
everlasting celebrations, bring our labors safe to birth.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning earth.

Goddess of all times' progression, stand with us when we engage
hands and hearts to end oppression, writing history's fairer page.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning age.

UNISON BENEDICTION

May our circle be open but unbroken
May the peace of our Goddess be ever in our hearts
Merry Meet and Merry Part and Merry Meet Again