

ORDER OF SERVICE
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA
October 10, 2021

Worship Leader: Claudia Fox Tree
Worship Assistant: Rabbi Yaakov Reef
Choir Dir./Organist: Joohwa Park

WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING WORDS

CHALICE LIGHTING by Marjorie Montgomery
*(Everyone is invited to say the words of the Chalice
Lighting.)*

Life is a gift for which we are grateful.

We gather in community to celebrate the glories
And the mysteries of this great gift.

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.

OPENING HYMN

“Life is the Greatest Gift of All” (lyrics follow, #331 in the hymnal)

Life is the greatest gift
Of all the riches on this earth;
Life and its creatures, great and small,
Of high and lowly birth:
So treasure it and measure it
With deeds of shining worth.

Mind is the brightest gift of all,
Its thought no barrier mars;
It seeks creation's hidden plan,
Its quest surmounts all bars;
It reins the wind, it chains the storm,
It weighs the outmost stars.

We are of life, its shining gift,
The measure of all things;
Up from the dust our temples lift,
Our vision soars on wings;
For seed and root, for flower and fruit,
Our grateful spirit sings.

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN

READING

MUSICAL INTERLUDE Excerpts from Etude Op. 10
No. 3 by F. Chopin,
Joohwa Park, Piano

HYMN “For the Earth Forever
Turning” (lyrics follow,
#163 in the hymnal)

For the earth forever turning;
For the skies, for ev’ry sea;
For our lives,
For all we cherish,
Sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the mountains, hills and pastures
In their silent majesty;
For the stars, for all the heavens,
Sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the sun, for rain and thunder,
For the seasons’ harmony,
For our lives, for all creation,
Sing we our joyful praise to Thee.

For the world we raise our voices,
For the home that gives us birth;
In our joy we sing returning
Home to our blue green hills of earth.

SERMON

“Indigenous Spirituality and Cultural Appropriation”,
Claudia Fox Tree

OFFERTORY

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DOXOLOGY

From all that dwell below the skies
Let songs of love and faith arise
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

“Blue Boat Home” (lyrics follow, #1064 in the teal hymnal)

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 upholding me,
Hail the great winds urging me on,
Greet the infinite sea before me,
Sing the sky my sailor's song:
I was born upon 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 THE CHALICE words by
Elizabeth Selle Jones

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