

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

*Worship Leader:* Claudia Fox Tree  
*Worship Assistant:* Rabbi Yaakov Reef  
*Choir Director/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 on following page, #331 in the hymnal)

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 on the following page, #163 in the hymnal)

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

HYMN

“Blue Boat Home” (lyrics on following page, #1064 in the teal hymnal)

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

## Life Is the Greatest Gift of All

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.

## For the Earth Forever Turning

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.

## Blue Boat Home

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.