

ORDER OF SERVICE  
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA  
November 21, 2021

*Worship Leader:*                      *Rev. Eugene “Woody” Widrick*  
*Worship Assistant:*                      *Brita Learned*  
*Choir Dir./Organist:*                      *Joohwa Park*

PRELUDE                                      Joohwa Park, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

“Come, Ye Thankful People”  
(#68 in the hymnal)

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise a song of harvest home:  
Fruit and crops are gathered in,  
Safe before the storms begin;  
God, our Maker, will provide  
For our needs to be supplied;  
Come to God’s own temple, come,  
Raise a song of harvest home.

All the world is but a field,  
Given for a fruitful yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Here for joy or sorrow grown:  
First the blade, and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear;  
God of harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN

PRAYER AND MEDITATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE “You Raise Me Up” by Rolf  
Løvland, Bob Leger,  
Guitar

HYMN “To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and  
Love” (lyrics follow, #93 in  
the hymnal)

To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love  
All pray in their distress,  
And to those virtues of delight  
Return their thankfulness,  
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy has a human heart,  
And Pity a human face;  
And Love, the human form divine,  
And Peace, the human dress,  
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every one, of every clime,  
That prays in deep distress,  
Prays to the human form divine –  
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace  
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

SERMON

“Now Thank We All”, Rev.  
Widrick

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

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.

## 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.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Joohwa Park, Organ