

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

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

PRELUDE Joohwa Park, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OPENING WORDS

CHALICE LIGHTING words by Marjorie Montgomery
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”
(lyrics on following pages, #68
in the hymnal)

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN

PRAYER AND MEDITATION

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

HYMN

“To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love”
(lyrics on following pages, #93 in
the hymnal)

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 on following pages, #331
in the hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Joohwa Park, Organ

Come, Ye Thankful People

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.

To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love

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.

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.