

ORDER OF SERVICE  
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA  
December 5, 2021

*Worship Leader:* Rev. Nannene Gowdy  
*Worship Assistant:* Brita Learned  
*Choir Director/Organist:* Joohwa Park

*“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” ~Matthew 24:36*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CHALICE LIGHTING words 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.

OPENING WORDS “Reflections on the Resurgence  
of Joy” by Dori Jeanine  
Somers

OPENING HYMN “Let Christmas Come” (lyrics on  
following pages, #224 in the  
hymnal)

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.

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN

PRAYER AND MEDITATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"Christmas Is Coming" by Vince Guaraldi, Joohwa Park, Piano

READING

Mahatma Gandhi on Jesus

OFFERTORY

If you would like to make an offering, you can use the [“Click to Donate”](#) button on our website (uubillerica.org) or mail it to P.O. Box 96, Billerica, MA 01821

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

SERMON

“Waiting for the Savior to Arrive”, Rev. Gowdy

HYMN

“Gather the Spirit” (lyrics on following pages, #347 in the hymnal)

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE words by Elizabeth Selle Jones  
*(Everyone is invited to say the words of the extinguishing of 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.

BENEDICTION

“The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman

POSTLUDE

## Let Christmas Come

Let Christmas come, its story told,  
When days are short and winds are cold;  
Let Christmas come, its lovely song,  
When evening's soon and the night is long.

Let Christmas come, its great star glow,  
On quiet city, parks of snow;  
Let Christmas come, its table gleam,  
Love born again: the truth of dream.

## Gather the Spirit

Gather the spirit, harvest the power.  
Our sep'rate fires will kindle one flame.  
Witness the mystery of this hour.  
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.  
Gather in sympathy now and then.  
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.  
Gather to celebrate once again.

Gather the spirit of heart and mind.  
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.  
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,  
With body and spirit united once more.

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.  
Gather in sympathy now and then.  
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.  
Gather to celebrate once again.

Gather the spirit growing in all,  
Drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.  
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,  
The chorus of life resounding as one.

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.  
Gather in sympathy now and then.  
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.  
Gather to celebrate once again.