

ORDER OF SERVICE
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA
January 16, 2022

Worship Leader: Rev. Eugene “Woody” Widrick

Worship Assistant: Brita Learned

Choir Director: Joohwa Park

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OPENING WORDS

CHALICE LIGHTING

words: Marjorie Montgomery

Life is a gift for which we are grateful.

We gather together 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

“Creative Love, Our
Thanks We Give”, #289

Creative love, our thanks we give that this,
our world, is incomplete,
that struggle greets our will to live,
that work awaits our hands and feet;

That we are not yet fully wise,
that we are in the making still —
as friends who share one enterprise
and strive to blend with nature’s will.

What though the future long delay,
and still with faults we daily cope?
It gives us that for which to pray,
a field for toil and faith and hope.

Since what we choose is what we are,
and what we love we yet shall be,
the goal may ever shine afar —
the will to reach it makes us free.

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN

PRAYER & MEDITATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“A Blown-Away Leaf”, Leoš Janáček, performed by Joohwa Park, Piano

HYMN

“There’s a Wideness in your Mercy”, #213

There’s a wideness in your mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there’s a kindness in your justice which is more than liberty.

But we make your love too narrow by false limits of our own,
and we magnify your strictness with a zeal you will not own.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

SERMON

“Starting Anew”,
Rev. “Woody” Widrick

OFFERTORY



If you would like to make an offering,
use the 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 ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue. Amen

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

words: 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

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
#199

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am
tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am
tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

BENEDICTION