

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

*Worship Leaders:* 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” (lyrics on following page, #289)

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” (lyrics on following pages, #213)

SERMON “Starting Anew”, Rev. Eugene “Woody” Widrick

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 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” (lyrics on following pages, #199)

BENEDICTION

### **Creative Love, Our Thanks We Give**

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.

### **There's a Wideness in your Mercy**

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.

### **Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

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.