

ORDER OF SERVICE
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA
May 8, 2022

Worship Leaders: Rev. Nannene Gowdy
Worship Assistant: Brita Learned
Choir Director: Joohwa Park

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.

OPENING WORDS "In Time of Silver Rain",
by Langston Hughes

OPENING HYMN* "We Sing of Golden Mornings"
SLT #44

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

PIANO INTERLUDE "Im wunderschönen Monat Mai"
(In Beautiful May) by Robert Schumann & "Spirit of Life" by Carolyn McDade,
played by Joohwa Park, piano

READING Earth Mother, Star Mother by Starhawk

OFFERTORY

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.

SERMON "The Mother of Us All", Rev. Gowdy

HYMN* "Lady of the Season's Laughter" SLT#51

(The church has a tradition of facing outward during the last hymn as a sign of going forth to live our religion)

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.

BENEDICTION "I Who Am the Beauty of the Green Earth",
by Starhawk

POSTLUDE

*Please stand in body or spirit