

ORDER OF SERVICE - Hybrid  
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

We sing of golden mornings, we sing of sparkling seas,  
of prairies, valleys, mountains, and stately forest trees.

We sing of flashing sunshine and life-bestowing rain,  
of birds among the branches, and springtime come again.

We sing the heart courageous, the youthful, eager mind;  
we sing of hopes undaunted, of friendly ways and kind.

We sing the roses waiting beneath the deep-piled snows;  
we sing the earth’s great splendor, whose beauty ‘round us  
glows.

## 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 on the piano

## READING

Earth Mother, Star Mother by Starhawk

## OFFERTORY



If you would like to make an offering, use the button on our website ([uubillerica.org](http://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.

## SERMON

“The Mother of Us All”, Rev. Gowdy

Lady of the seasons’ laughter,  
    in the summer’s warmth be near;  
when the winter follows after,  
    teach our spirits not to fear.  
Hold us in your steady mercy,  
    Lady of the turning year.

Sister of the evening starlight,  
    in the falling shadows stay  
here among us till the far light  
    of tomorrow’s dawning ray.  
Hold us in your steady mercy,  
    Lady of the turning day.

Mother of the generations,  
    in whose love all life is worth  
everlasting celebrations,  
    bring our labors safe to birth.  
Hold us in your steady mercy,  
    Lady of the turning earth.

Goddess of all times’ progression,  
    stand with us when we engage  
hands and hearts to end oppression,  
    writing history’s fairer page.  
Hold us in your steady mercy,  
    Lady of the turning age.

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