

ORDER OF SERVICE
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA
September 13, 2020

Worship Leader: Rev. Eugene “Woody” Widrick
Worship Assistant: Brita Learned

WELCOME

OPENING WORDS

CHALICE LIGHTING words by Marjorie Montgomery
Life is a gift for which we are grateful.
We gather 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 “Here We Have Gathered”
(lyrics on following page,
#360 in the hymnal)

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN

LESSON

INGATHERING A time to share where we are,
have been, hope to be...

HOMILY Shared thoughts for these times
from the pulpit.

PRAYER

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

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE words by 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

“Rank by Rank Again We Stand” (lyrics on following page, #358 in the hymnal)

BENEDICTION

Here We Have Gathered

Here we have gathered, gathered side by side;
Circle of kinship, come and step inside!
May all who seek here find a kindly word;
May all who speak here feel they have been heard.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.

Here we have gathered, called to celebrate
Days of our lifetime, matters small and great:
We of all ages, women, children, men,
Infants and sages, sharing what we can.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.

Life has its battles, sorrows, and regret:
But in the shadows, let us not forget:
We who now gather know each other's pain;
Kindness can heal us: as we give, we gain.
Sing now in friendship this, our heart's own song.

Rank by Rank Again We Stand

Rank by rank again we stand,
From the four winds gathered hither.
Loud the hallowed walls demand
Whence we come and how, and whither.
From their stillness breaking clear,
Echoes wake to warn or cheer;
Higher truth from saint and seer
Call to us assembled here.

Ours the years' memorial store,
Honored days and names we reckon,
Days of comrades gone before,
Lives that speak and deeds that beckon.
From the dreaming of the night
To the labors of the day,
Shines their everlasting light,
Guiding us upon our way.

Though the path be hard and long,
Still we strive in expectation;
Join we now their ageless song
One with them in aspiration.
One in name, in honor one,
Guard we well the crown they won;
What they dreamed be ours to do,
Hope their hopes, and seal them true.