

ORDER OF SERVICE  
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA  
October 18, 2020

*Worship Leaders:* Joshua Leach  
*Worship Assistant:* Brita Learned  
*Choir Director/Organist:* Joohwa Park

WELCOME

OPENING WORDS from *Prayer for Hiroshima* by  
James Kirkup

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 “May Nothing Evil Cross This Door” (lyrics on following pages, #1 in the hymnal)

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN

TIME FOR ALL AGES “The Story of Pandora: A Retelling”

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Don’t Stop Me Now”,  
composed by Queen, arranged  
by Francesco Parrino; Joohwa  
Park, Piano

READING

“The Second Coming”, W.B.  
Yeats

MEDITATION

HYMN

“Almond Trees, Renewed in  
Bloom” (lyrics on following  
pages, #59 in the hymnal)

SERMON

“Finding Our Center”, J. Leach

OFFERTORY

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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

“Hail the Glorious Golden City”  
(lyrics on following pages,  
#140 in the hymnal)

BENEDICTION

from *Audacity of Hope* by Rev.  
Jeremiah Wright

## May Nothing Evil Cross This Door

May nothing evil cross this door,  
And may ill fortune never pry  
About these windows; may the roar  
And rain go by.

By faith made strong, the rafters will  
Withstand the battering of the storm.  
This hearth, though all the world grow chill,  
Will keep you warm.

Peace shall walk softly through these rooms,  
Touching our lips with holy wine,  
Till ev'ry casual corner blooms  
Into a shrine.

With laughter drown the raucous shout,  
And, though these sheltering walls are thin,  
May they be strong to keep hate out  
And hold love in.

## Almond Trees, Renewed in Bloom

Almond trees, renewed in bloom,  
Do they not proclaim  
Life returning year by year,  
Love that will remain?  
Almond blossom, sign of life  
In the face of pain,  
Raises hope in people's hearts:  
Spring has come again.

War destroys a thousand fold,  
Hatred scars the earth,  
But the day when almonds bloom  
Is a time of birth.  
Friends, give thanks for almond blooms  
Swaying in the wind:  
Token that the gift of life  
Triumphs in the end.

## **Hail the Glorious Golden City**

Hail the glorious golden city,  
Pictured by the seers of old:  
Everlasting light shines o'er it,  
Wondrous things of it are told.  
Wise and righteous men and women  
Dwell within its gleaming wall;  
Wrong is banished from its borders,  
Justice reigns supreme o'er all.

We are builders of that city.  
All our joys and all our groans  
Help to rear its shining ramparts;  
All our lives are building stones.  
Whether humble or exalted,  
All are called to task divine;  
All must aid alike to carry  
Forward one sublime design.

And the work that we have builded,  
Oft with bleeding hands and tears,  
Oft in error, oft in anguish,  
Will not perish with our years:  
It will live and shine transfigured  
In the final reign of right:  
It will pass into the splendors  
Of the city of the light.