

ORDER OF SERVICE
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA
November 22, 2020

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

*“If the only prayer you ever say is thank you, that will suffice.”
~Meister Eckhart (1260-1328)*

WELCOME

OPENING WORDS “i thank you God” by e.e.
cummings

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 “We Gather Together” (lyrics on following page, #349 in the hymnal)

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN

PRAYER AND MEDITATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Linus and Lucy”, by Vince Guaraldi; Joohwa Park, Piano

READING

“We Lift Up Our Hearts in Thanks” by Dick Fewkes

SERMON

“Shall We Skip Thanksgiving This Year?”, Rev. Gowdy

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

“Life Is the Greatest Gift of All”
(lyrics on following page, #331 in the hymnal)

BENEDICTION

“We Give Thanks This Day” by Eugene Pickett

We Gather Together

We gather together in joyful thanksgiving,
Acclaiming creation, whose bounty we share;
Both sorrow and gladness we find now in our living,
We sing a hymn of praise to the life that we bear.

We gather together to join in the journey,
Confirming, committing our passage to be
A true affirmation, in joy and tribulation,
When bound to human care and hope – then we are free.

Life Is the Greatest Gift of All

Life is the greatest gift
Of all the riches on this earth;
Life and its creatures, great and small,
Of high and lowly birth:
So treasure it and measure it
With deeds of shining worth.

Mind is the brightest gift
Of all, it thought no barrier mars;
It seeks creation's hidden plan,
Its quest surmounts all bars;
It reins the wind, it chains the storm,
It weighs the outmost stars.

We are of life, its shining gift,
The measure of all things;
Up from the dust our temples lift,
Our vision soars on wings;
For seed and root, for flower and fruit,
Our grateful spirit sings.