

Hanukkah's Strong Close
December 29th, 2024

PRELUDE:

**WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

CHALICE LIGHTING: We Are Religious

OPENING WORDS: Exploring the other is our core

OPENING HYMN: #407 Sit at the Welcome Table

STORY FOR ALL AGES: Hanukkah Games

PARTING SONG/ SINGING OUT THE CHILDREN

*Go Now in Peace, Go Now in Peace,
Let the Spirit of Love Surround you,
Everywhere, Everywhere, You May Go*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

*Love is the doctrine of this church. The quest for truth
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.*

CENTERING HYMN: #67 We Sing Now Together

PRAYER: The Moment of Magic

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN:

MUSICAL MEDITATION/INTERLUDE:

READING: Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook

SERMON: Hanukkah's Strong Close: 8 New Candles

OFFERTORY WORDS: Converting the Bear

CHORAL RESPONSE/MUSICAL OFFERTORY:

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* E.S. 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.*

CLOSING HYMN: #118 This Little Light of Mine
(the hymn is sung facing the world we are about to enter)

BENEDICTION: Jerry Seinfeld

POSTLUDE:

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Please join us for refreshments downstairs immediately after the service

First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist
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A Brief History

In 1653, the “Shawshin Wilderness” was first settled, and its inhabitants were recognized as the Town of Billerica in 1655, conditional upon the settling of a minister. At the 1658 Town Meeting, Samuel Whiting, of Lynn, was appointed the minister of the first “meeting house”. The meeting house was built in 1659, but the church could not be formally organized, and its minister ordained until approval of the “Half-Way Covenant” which was not until November 1663.

The first meeting house was only 40 feet square with a thatched roof. When this became inadequate in 1694, a second was built; and in 1738, a third. In 1797, a fourth house was erected because “a new and more commodious meeting house was found necessary.” At that time, Dr. Henry Cummings was pastor. In 1844, the meeting house was renovated by adding the Greek portico and the building was turned 90° to face east. This was done by jacking up the building, setting it gently on a large cannon ball, and carefully pivoting it until it faced the village green.

The First Parish Church The Unitarian Universalist Church

On the Common, Billerica Massachusetts



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