



March 22, 2026
Keeping Hope Alive

“Hope is the last thing ever lost.” – Italian proverb

Worship Leader: Rev. Nannene Gowdy
Worship Assistant: Brita Learned
Worship Musician: Jodi Templer
Coffee Hour Host: Brita Learned

The First Parish Church in Billerica, Unitarian Universalist
On the Common - Billerica, Massachusetts

PRELUDE

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHALICE LIGHTING

Life is a gift for which we are grateful.
We gather in community to celebrate the glories
And the mysteries of this great gift.

OPENING WORDS

Hope Is the Thing with Feathers
by Emily Dickinson

OPENING HYMN:

Here We Have Gathered
#360 in Singing The Living Tradition

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.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Bark, George
by Jules Feiffer

SINGING OUT THE CHILDREN

Go Now In Peace
#413 in Singing the Living Tradition

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN

PIANO INTERLUDE

READING

from President Obama's Eulogy for
Jesse Jackson

OFFERTORY

SERMON

Keep Hope Alive

*The church has a tradition of facing outward during the Closing Hymn
as a sign of going forth to live our religion.*

HYMN

We'll Build A Land
#121 in Singing The Living Tradition

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

BENEDICTION

Still I Rise
by Maya Angelou

POSTLUDE

*Please join us downstairs in the Parish Hall for refreshments and
conversation immediately following the service.*

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

7 Concord Road, P.O. Box 96
Billerica, MA 01821
978-663-2293

admin@uubillerica.org
www.uubillerica.org



As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love. Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love. Inseparable from one another, these shared values are: Interdependence, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity, and Justice.