



December 14th 2025
“Why We Love Some Hymns”

Worship Leader: Rev. Nannene Gowdy
Musician: Don Hodgkins
Worship Assistant: Brita Learned
Coffee Hour Host:

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

PRELUDE*Meditation on Morning Has Broken*

Smith

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*Fearful Joy*

by Rabindranath Tagore

**INTRODUCTION TO
OPENING HYMN**#38 *Morning Has Broken***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*The Littlest Christmas Tree*

by Janie Jasin

SINGING OUT THE CHILDREN

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

CANDLES OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION TO HYMN #123 Spirit of Life

ORGAN INTERLUDE *Variations on “Greensleeves”*
Hughes

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

INTRODUCTION TO HYMN #1064 Blue Boat Home

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

The Great Sea
by Inuit ShamanUvavnuK

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo
arr. Held

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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.