

FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA
Hinduism & Membership
Sunday May 3rd, 2026

CHORAL/ MUSICAL PRELUDE:

**WELCOME &
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** Rev. Steve Wilson

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Worship Assistant

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

CHALICE LIGHTING: Kathryn Estey

OPENING WORDS: Why Hinduism?

OPENING HYMN: #170 We Are A Gentle Angry People
(I added this hymn for those whose Mother's Day is

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Salt in Water

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."*

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY: Participatory

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: #123 Spirit of Life

PRAYER: Rev. Bruce Southworth

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN:

MUSICAL MEDITATION/INTERLUDE:

SERMON: Hinduism

OFFERTORY WORDS: Christian and the Hindu

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* 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.

CLOSING HYMN #131 Love Will Guide Us
*(the hymn is sung facing the world we are about to enter)

CLOSING WORDS: Atharva Veda XIX

POSTLUDE:

*Please stand in body or spirit.

*Please join us for refreshments downstairs immediately after the service

New Member Welcome Ceremony

Minister: Now is the time during the service that we honor our newest members and their decision to join our church family. Would all new members please join the Chair of The Board of Trustees, Our Membership Committee Chair, and me here in the front of the sanctuary?

Membership Committee Representative: Will the present members of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Billerica welcome these people into our congregation? Will you reach out to them in friendship, including them in our activities and fellowship? Will you be open to their unique gifts and perspectives? Will you extend a warm welcome to each of them, remembering that each of us was once a new member?

Congregation Members:

Yes. We join our strengths, talents, and commitment with yours. You are a part of us and we are a part of you. Our vision is to be an open-minded spiritual community that celebrates diversity and lives successfully with both its gifts and challenges. We seek to understand and appreciate the great diversity of people and ideas in the world.

President and/or First Parish Board Member

I charge you as new members to grow in your faith. More importantly, I charge you to find and share your special gifts with us. Ours is a shared ministry with each of us having a crucial role to play. We need you. We need your energy; and your ideas. Give generously of yourselves and your rewards will be great.

Membership Committee Representative:

It is a joy to welcome each of you into our community of memory and hope. Will you as new members walk together with us, sharing the joys and the responsibilities of membership? If you will, say "Yes."

New Members: Yes

Membership Committee Representative:

Please accept our congregation's gifts and warm welcome. Each of you brings light, vitality, and renewal to our community. Thanks for officially becoming a part of us.

Minister: Together, we form a beacon of hope to each other and our world. May your light shine brightly among us for many years to come! Welcome to First Parish.
(Applause)
Thank you all, and congratulations.

The Signing of the Book: Participants who have not yet signed.

The Presentation of Gifts: Minister and Participants

The First Parish Church The Unitarian Universalist Church

On the Common, Billerica Massachusetts
7 Concord Rd. PO Box 96, Billerica, MA 01821



Hinduism & Membership
Sunday May 3rd, 2026