

Thank you!

The Billerica Interfaith Association thanks you for attending our 2025 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service & Community Celebration and wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving season surrounded by the blessings of family, friends, and community.

We are thankful for the presence of all who have come to celebrate together, participated in the service, provided beautiful music, brought food to share, helped to set up, cleanup, or publicized invitations, make this celebration wonderful. Many thanks to First Parish for again hosting this annual tradition.

The Billerica Interfaith Association is as an organization of clergy and representatives of diverse faith communities in our local area. We seek to understand and appreciate our differences, build relationships, celebrate our unity in spirit, and support each other and our communities. We are committed to work together and to be a united presence for spiritual support and care in our community.

All gifts received in today's offering will be donated to the Billerica Community Pantry, a charitable organization that was formed by the Billerica Interfaith Association in response to a need in the Billerica community. Today, we continue the work of building a caring community.

Billerica Interfaith Association



Interfaith Thanksgiving

*Worship Service &
Community Celebration*

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025

*Billerica First Parish Church
Unitarian Universalist*

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Music by:

Jim Scott, Unitarian Universalist
Guitar, Vocals, Author

Temple Shalom Emeth Band:
Rabbi Susan Abramson~ tambourine, vocals
Ben Silver~ guitar, vocals
Michelle Grossman~ vocals,
Phyllis Berlow~keyboard, vocals
Fran Bloomfield~guitar
Desi Kaplan~percussion

PRELUDE....." So Many Pathways"

WELCOME Rev. Steve Wilson, Jeanne Landers
(*First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist*)

Land Acknowledgement & Chalice Lighting.

OPENING WORDS.....Rev. Katherine Adams
First Congregational Church

OPENING HYMN # 347 "Gather the Spirit" ~ Jim Scott

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS
FROM THE TRADITIONS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITIES

Quran:.....Passages on faith as a source of strength in our lives
Taher and Fatema Esmail
Dawoodi Bohra of Boston (a Muslim faith)

Scripture Reading (Psalm 100)..... David Gagnon
North Billerica Baptist Church

Let the Heavens Be Glad" see insert ~ all sing
Temple Shalom Emeth Band

Reading from the Book of Mormon:
Another Testament of Jesus Christ.....Scott Robertson, Bishop
Billerica Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Scripture Reading (Isaiah 25: 3-9)..... Father Chris Casey
St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish

OFFERTORY FOR BILLERICA COMMUNITY PANTRY
Katherine Adams, & Pantry Members

OFFERTORY HYMN
"Let There Be Love"
Temple Shalom Emeth Band

HOMILY "Faith that persists and resists"
Pastor Lise Hildebrandt., Associate Priest
St. Anne's Episcopal Church

"Bayom Hahu" see insert ~all sing
Temple Shalom Emeth Band

Extinguish Chalice

BLESSING Rabbi Susan Abramson
Temple Shalom Emeth

POSTLUDE~ "Let There Be Peace on Earth"
Temple Shalom Emeth Band

PRELUDE

So Many Pathways by Bob Amos

So many voices call in the night
So many lead us astray
So many tell us they have the answer
But I know there is more than one way

Somewhere there's a light of love and compassion
It shines through the dark of the night
I know there's a way we can live here together
Lead us on to the heavenly light

So many people in so many ways
Search for the light from above
So many pathways lead to the same place
Just as long as we're guided by love

Somewhere there's a light of love and compassion
It shines through the dark of the night
I know there's a way we can live here together
Lead us on to the heavenly light
Lead us on to the heavenly light

Let the Heavens Be Glad by Robert Weinberg

text based on passages from Leviticus, Joel, Psalm 96

Let the heavens be glad, let the heavens be glad
Let the earth rejoice, let the sea roar, let people unite
Let the heavens be glad, let the heavens be glad
Let the earth rejoice, let the sea roar, let people unite

Behold how good and how – pleasant it is
For people to live in peace, behold how good it is
People – live in peace (Chorus)

Proclaim liberty – throughout the land
To all the inhabitants, proclaim liberty
Proclaim liberty (Chorus)

One day your elders – shall dream dreams
And your youth shall see visions, visions of liberty
Visions of justice and peace (Chorus)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let There Be Love (a version of Hashkiveinu)

by Noah Aaronson - includes words from Hashkiveinu, a prayer in the Jewish liturgy

Let there be love, and understanding among us
Let peace and friendship be our shelter from life's storms

Let there be love, and understanding among us
Let peace and friendship be our shelter from life's storms

Hashkiveinu, Adonai Eloheinu
Hashkiveinu – L'sha-lom

V'ha'amideinu shom'reinu l'chayim
Uf'ros aleinu, sukat sh'lomecha

Hashkiveinu, Adonai Eloheinu
Hashkiveinu – L'sha-lom

Hashkiveinu, Adonai Eloheinu
Hashkiveinu – L'sha-lom

Let there be love, and understanding among us
Let peace and friendship be our shelter from life's storms

Let there be love, and understanding among us
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Bayom Hahu (Kanarek) by Barry Kanarek - includes words of
Bayom Hahu, a prayer in the Jewish liturgy

Though the time be far, I know that come it will
When each nation shall each other bless,
And peace the earth shall fill.

And God shall reign over the earth,
On that day God shall be one
And Your name, it shall be one...

Ba-yom ha-hu
Yi-h'-yeh A-do-nai echad u-sh'-mo e-chad
Ba-yom ha-hu
Yi-h'-yeh A-do-nai e-chad

And on that dawn of peace we'll smash the spear of war
And everyone beneath their vine and fig
Will be afraid no more

And God shall reign...

Ba-yom ha-hu...

And it shall come to pass that peace is what we'll find
And then we'll join our hands with everyone
Across the border line

And God shall reign...

Ba-yom ha-hu...

POSTLUDE

Let There Be Peace by Jill Jackson and Sy Miller
with editions (for gender neutrality, etc.)

Let there be peace on Earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God our Creator
Peacemakers we will be
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment, and live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on Earth
And let it begin with me