

RESPONSIVE READING:

#718, "All Souls" May Sarton

Did someone say that there would be an end,

*An end, Oh, an end, to love and
mourning?*

What has been once so interwoven cannot be
raveled, nor the gift ungiven.

*the dead move through all of us still
glowing,*

Mother and child, lover and lover mated, are
wound and bound together and enflowing.

*What has been plaited cannot be
unplaited-only the strands grow richer
with each loss*

And memory makes kings and queens of us.

*Dark into light, light into darkness,
spin. When all the birds have flown to
some real haven,*

We who find shelter in the warmth within,
Listen, and feel new-cherished, new-
forgiven,

*As the lost human voices speak through
us and blend our complex love, our
mourning without end.*

The First Parish Church The Unitarian Universalist Church

On the Common, Billerica Massachusetts



Embracing Autumn: Halloween, All Souls Day, and the Day of the Dead

The great thing about
getting older is that
you don't lose all the
other ages you have been
--Madeleine L'Engle

November 1st, 2026

Halloween Day of the Dead

November 1st, 2026

PRELUDE:

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

CHALICE LIGHTING: Merry Meet and Merry Part

OPENING WORDS: My Own Joy

OPENING HYMN: #1 May Nothing Evil

STORY FOR ALL AGES: Rev. Steve

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: #16 Tis a Gift to Be Simple

PRAYER: Embodied lessons from 2 Generation

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN:

MUSICAL MEDITATION/INTERLUDE:

RESPONSIVE READING: #718 All Souls, May Sarton

SERMON: Embracing Autumn: Halloween, All Souls Day, and the Day of the Dead

OFFERTORY WORDS: The Scottish Atheist

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: #6 Just as Long as I Have Breath

*(the hymn is sung facing the world we are about to enter)

BENEDICTION: To Err is Human

POSTLUDE:

*Please stand in body or spirit.

*Please join us for refreshments downstairs immediately after the service

First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist

7 Concord Rd. PO Box 96, Billerica, MA 01821

978-663-2293 uu-info@uubillerica.org

Web Site: www.uubillerica.org