

FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BILLERICA

Sunday October 5th, 2025

St. Francis

CHORAL/ MUSICAL PRELUDE:

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Rev. Steve Wilson

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rev. Steve Wilson

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

OPENING WORDS: Wardrobe Mistakes & Daddy Issues

CHALICE LIGHTING: Dr. Linda Hart

OPENING HYMN: #358 Rank By Rank We Stand

RESPONSIVE READING: Pet Blessing
(see back page)

PET BLESSING:

STORY FOR ALL AGES: St. Francis of Assisi (book)

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: #128 For all That is Our Life

PRAYER/MEDITATION: “Adam” by Irving Layton

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN:

MUSICAL MEDITATION/INTERLUDE:

SERMON: St. Francis

OFFERTORY WORDS: So, how enlightened are you

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 #29 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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

CLOSING WORDS/BENEDICTION: Never complete

POSTLUDE:

*Please stand in body or spirit.

*Please join us for refreshments downstairs immediately after the service

Many thanks to Heidi Boone for hosting Coffee Hour today

Responsive Reading: Blessing of the Animals

- Minister:** Surrounded by the animals we love, we remember with gratitude all the pets, protectors, and animal companions who bless our lives.
- People:** We give thanks for childhood pets. Today we remember the pets who taught us to love and cry.
- Minister:** Accompanied today by our beloved pets we pause to remember that many animals suffer are hunted, tortured, and/or deserted.
- People:** At this time of blessing, we must remember that nature can be cruel, and people mean.
- Minister:** Prompted by the animals we love at our sides, we give thanks for all those other animals who work for us, guard our safety, and guide the blind.
- People:** Thanks for the animals who provide us food and clothing. For the animals who tote our burdens and entertain us with their antics, we are grateful.
- Minister:** Hear our outpouring of love and gratitude for them and help us translate that love into a broader concern for all creatures.
- All:** We bless these animals; we pledge to remember that we are not alone on the earth.

The First Parish Church The Unitarian Universalist Church

On the Common, Billerica Massachusetts

St. Francis
October 5th, 2025

**"Preach the Gospel at all times,
and when necessary, use words."**

-- Francis of Assisi

1182 – 1226



First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist

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Minister/Worship Leader:
Worship Assistant:

Rev. Steve Wilson
Brita Learned