



October 18, 2026

“The Rose”

Worship Leader: Rev. Nannene Gowdy
Sound/Equipment: John Luke Mills
Zoom Team: Sarah Mills, John Bewick, Tara Maharjan
Greeter Adam Bejtlich
Coffee Hour Host: Brita Learned

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

PRELUDE

Liz Cardenas

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brita Learned

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

Rev. Nannene Gowdy
Wild Geese by Mary Oliver

OPENING HYMN

Come, Sing A Song With Me
#346 in the Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal

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 we covenant with each other and with God.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Nannene Gowdy
We Two – From Now We Are Six by A.A. Milne

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 CONCERN

OFFERTORY

SERMON

The Rose

HYMN

Love Will Guide Us
#131 in the Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal

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

Rev. Nannene Gowdy
Dear Marmee by Griffin Gowdy Wright Destler

POSTLUDE

The Rose, sung by Bette Midler

*We invite you to stay after our service and join us for
coffee and conversation*

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

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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.