

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

7 Concord Road, P.O. Box 96

Billerica, MA 01821

978-663-2293

[admin@uubillerica.org](mailto:admin@uubillerica.org)

[www.uubillerica.org](http://www.uubillerica.org)



**March 8, 2026**

***“Democracy and our Spiritual Fortitude”***

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.

Worship Leader: Claire Karl B.W. Müller (they/them)  
Worship Assistant: Brita Learned  
Worship Musician: Jodi Templer  
Coffee Hour Host: Liz Cowhig, Paul, and Eli Rowe

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

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP/ OPENING WORDS

The Bright Thread of Hope by Gretchen Haley

## 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 HYMN:

Here We Have Gathered  
*#360 in Singing The Living Tradition*

## 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 do we covenant with each other and with God.

## TIME FOR ALL AGES

## SINGING OUT THE CHILDREN

*Go Now In Peace*  
*#413 in Singing The Living Tradition*

## CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN

## READING

Meditation by Wendell Berry  
*#483 Singing The Living Tradition*

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

## HYMN:

One More Step  
*#168 in Singing The Living Tradition*

## SERMON

Democracy and our Spiritual Fortitude  
Claire Karl B.W.Müller

## OFFERTORY

*donations can also be made online at*  
<http://www.uubillerica.org>

## 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

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

*The church has a tradition of facing outward during the Closing Hymn  
as a sign of going forth to live our religion.*

## CLOSING HYMN\*

We'll Build A Land  
*#121 in Singing The Living Tradition*

*Please stand in body or spirit*

## BENEDICTION

by Darcy Roake

## POSTLUDE

*Please join for refreshments and conversation  
immediately after the service.*