



**January 4, 2026**  
***In Longer Day – Turning Toward the Sun***

Worship Leader:	Jim Scott
Musician:	Jim Scott
Worship Assistant:	Brita Learned

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

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

*Guitar Improvisation*

## **PRELUDE**

*Let The Magic Start*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CHALICE LIGHTING**

**All: Fire of Life, cleanse our spirits with heat and flame,**

*Leader: Illuminate our path toward a Beloved Community.*

**Congregation: Light the way of love and peace.**

*L: Take our vessels to the flame*

**C: And from the kiln, be raised anew.**

*L: Let this be our mantra: Melt our pain,*

**C: Burn away confusion,**

*L: Ignite our passion,*

**C: And spark our voice,**

*L: Draw us close to your hearth,*

**C: And warm our souls.**

**All: Blessed be - Amen.**

## **OPENING HYMN**

*Building A New Way  
Martha Sandefer*

## **SONG FOR ALL AGES:**

*Big and Little Stuff*

One big song can grow

from little thoughts and rhymes.

Bigger thoughts than you might think  
come from little thoughts some times.

Big problems all seem smaller  
when we come to find

This big and little stuff is all in our minds.

## **OFFERING INTRODUCTION**

## **JOYS AND SORROWS** (with a song)

*With Every Story Told*

With every story told, our friendship becomes art.  
Each passage of life is a gateway to the heart.  
We are one in joy and sorrow, and the music of our  
learning  
Is danced in love and harmony with each day of  
Earth's turning.

## **MEDITATION**

Music – silence - music

## **ANTHEM**

*I Am Waiting*

## **READING**

*Darkness*

## **SONG** (sort of)

*In Longer Day*

## **SERMON**

Turning Toward The Sun

(Includes 2 songs: *First Night* and *Getting' Older With You*)

## **CLOSING SONG**

*May Your Life Be As A Song*

And may your life be as a song  
Resounding with the dawn to sing awake the light  
Then softly serenade the stars  
Ever dancing circles in the night.

## **BENEDICTION**

*Work to Do*

## **POSTLUDE**

*May Your Life*  
(instrumental reprise)

*Please join us downstairs in the Parish Hall following service for  
our monthly potluck lunch*

**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)



Composer, guitarist and singer Jim Scott is our guest this morning. His songs are in our UU Hymnbooks, and he's toured the country for four decades playing at over 700 UU churches. Jim was one of the originators of the UU Green Sanctuary program and with a grant from the Fund for UUism, created the "Earth and Spirit Songbook."

Mark your calendars, Jim will be doing a concert and workshop for Arts Wayland on Sunday January 18. at their new gallery in the town center.

Formerly a member of the Paul Winter Consort and co-composer of their *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*, Jim has gone on to record nine CDs and publish a growing line of choral works. He won the UU "Silliman Anthem Contest" for his piece "I Am Waiting" that he'll be doing today.

We can thank him by visiting his table with CDs and books at coffee hour. After hearing him today, I'm sure you'll want to take some of his work home with you.