



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 Sandefur

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

IAm 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***

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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.