

We Are . . .





THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, May 3, 2026

MUSIC SUNDAY

A Tribute to the Artistic Diversity of the United States

Thoughts to Ponder at the Beginning

For each child that's born, a morning star rises and sings to the universe who we are ... we are women, men, non-binary, LGBTQ+ ... we are children, adults, young, middle-aged, old ... we are immigrants, descended from immigrants, African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, Indigenous-American, Caucasian ... we are Unitarian Universalist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Atheist, Agnostic, Deist, Pagan, Wiccan ... we are so many more ... we are one ... for each child that's born, a morning star rises and sings to the universe who we are.

– with special acknowledgement to Ysaye Barnwell (b. 1946), activist, singer, composer and former member of the ensemble “Sweet Honey in the Rock”

SOUND OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

We Are ...

No. 5 from “Lessons” (1991)

by Ysaye Barnwell (b. 1946)

Text by Barnwell

For each child that's born, a morning star rises and sings to the universe who we are.

We are our grandmothers' prayers, and we are our grandfathers' dreamings,
We are the breath of our ancestors; we are the spirit of God.

We are mothers of courage and fathers of time,
We are daughters of dust and the songs of great visions,
We're sisters of mercy and brothers of love,
We are lovers of life and the builders of nations,
We're seekers of truth and keepers of faith,
We are makers of peace and the wisdom of ages.
We are one.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Annie Gonzalez

CHALICE LIGHTING

ANTHEM

Zion's Walls (Revivalist Song)
from No. 2 from "Old American Songs", Set II (1952)
by Aaron Copland (1900-1990), arr. Koponen/Conner
Text from the "Social Harp" (1855) by John G. McCurry (1821-1886)

Come fathers and mothers,
Come sisters and brothers,
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.

O fathers, don't you feel determined
To meet within the walls of Zion?
We'll shout and go round
The walls of Zion.

OPENING WORDS

Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger

* OPENING HYMN

"De Colores" No. 305

* UNISON AFFIRMATION

Love is the spirit of this church
And service is its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.

El amor es el Espíritu de esta Iglesia
y el servicio es su ley.
Este es nuestro gran pacto:
Vivir juntos en paz,
buscar la verdad en espíritu de amor,
Y ayudarnos los unos a los otros.

ANTHEMS

The Dream Keeper
from "Trilogy of Dreams" (2006)
by Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)
Text from "The Dream Keeper and Other Poems" (1932) by Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamers.
Bring me all of your
Heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too rough fingers
Of the world.



Dreams (2025)
by Innocent Okechukwu (b. 1988)
Text (1926) by Langston Hughes
Commissioned for the First Parish Adult Choir

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

I Dream a World (2008)
by David L. Brunner (b. 1953)
Text (1941) by Langston Hughes

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn.

I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black and white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free.

Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind –
Of such I dream, my world!

READING “The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus (1849-1887) Rev. Annie Gonzalez

ANTHEMS

Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor

by John Kramer (b. 1973)

from "The Immigrant Experience" (2017)

Selected text including "The New Colossus" (1883) by Emma Lazarus (1849-1887), ed. Kramer

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."
Freedom from oppression, freedom from want,
Freedom of religion. Freedom! Freedom!
Welcome to this land of freedom for all,
The promise of freedom for all.

Hine ma tov (2013)

Hebrew folk arr. Allan Naplan (b. 1972)

Psalm 133:1 "A Song of Ascents of David",

trans. of the Hebrew from the New International Version Bible

How good and pleasant it is
When god's people live together in unity.

Arirang (1999)

Korean folk, arr. Chen Yi (b. 1953)/Conner

Trans. from the Korean: Josephine Lee Williamson

Arirang, Arirang hills, crossing over the Arirang hills.
My darling is leaving me behind; won't make it ten miles before falling ill.

Arirang, Arirang hills, crossing over the Arirang hills.
The midnight blue sky is full of stars; our lives are full of troubles.

Arirang, Arirang hills, crossing over the Arirang hills.
A bountiful year will come, a bountiful year is coming;
A bountiful year is coming throughout the land.

Arirang, Arirang hills, crossing over the Arirang hills.
Thought about everything in this world; bubbles floating on the water.

O Love (2016)

by Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

Text (1882) by George Matheson (1842-1906), ed. Hagenberg

O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer fuller be.



O joy that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

READING

“Goldfinches” from “The Goldfinch” (1994) by Mary Oliver (1935-2019) Rev. Annie Gonzalez

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Bird's Lullaby (2020)
Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)
Text by E. Pauline Johnson (1861-1913)



Sing to us, cedars; the twilight is creeping, with shadowy garments, the wilderness through;
All day we have carolled, and now would be sleeping, so echo the anthems we warbled to you;
While we swing, and your branches sing, and we drowse to your dreamy whispering.
Sing to us now, nightwind sighing, wooing, pleading, you reply;
And in your arms we are restfully lying, and longing to dream to your soft lullaby;
While we swing, and your branches sing, and we drowse to your dreamy whispering.
Sing to us, cedars; your voice is so lowly, your breathing so fragrant, your branches so strong;
Our little nestcradles are swaying so slowly, while zephyrs are breathing their slumberous song.
And we swing, while your branches sing, and we drowse to your dreamy whispering.

ANTHEM

Choose Something Like a Star
by Randall Thompson (1899-1984), arr. Conner
from “Frostiana” (1959)
Text from “Steeple Bush” (1947) by Robert Frost (1874-1963)

O Star (the fairest one in sight),
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud –
It will not do to say of night,
Since dark is what brings out your light.
Some mystery becomes the proud.
But to the wholly taciturn
In your reserve is not allowed.
Say something to us we can learn
By heart and when alone repeat.
Say something! And it says, ‘I burn.’

But say with what degree of heat.
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.
Use Language we can comprehend.
Tell us what elements you blend.
It gives us strangely little aid,
But does tell something in the end.

And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,
Not even stooping from its sphere,
It asks a little of us here.
It asks of us a certain height.
So when at time the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid.

REFLECTION

Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger

ANTHEM

Sure on This Shining Night

by Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

from "Nocturnes" (2005)

Text from "Descriptions of Elysium" (1934) by James Agee (1909-1955)

Sure on this shining night
Of starmade shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side of the ground.
The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

* CLOSING HYMN

"We Are ..." No. 1051

CLOSING WORDS AND EXTINGUISH CHALICE

Rev. Annie



POSTLUDE

Rhythm of Life (1975)

by Cy Coleman (1929-2004), arr. Richard Barnes/Conner
from "Sweet Charity" (1966)
Lyrics by Dorothy Fields (1904-1974)

When I started down the street last Sunday,
Feelin' mighty low and kinda mean,
Suddenly a voice said, "Go forth, neighbor!
Spread the picture on a wider screen!"

And the voice said, "Neighbor, there's a million reasons
Why you should be glad in all four seasons!
Hit the road, neighbor, leave your worries and strife!
Spread the religion of the rhythm of life."

For the rhythm of life is a powerful beat,
Puts a tingle in your fingers and a tingle in your feet!
Rhythm on the inside rhythm on the street,
And the rhythm of life is a powerful beat!

Go tell them everything you know!

Go and spread the gospel in Milwaukee;
Take a walkie talkie to Rocky Ridge!
All the way to Canton, then to Scranton,
Even tell it under the Manhattan Bridge.

You will make a new sensation,
Have a growing congregation,
Build a glowing operation here below!
Like a Pied Piper blowing,
Lead and keep the music flowing,
Keep the rhythm go, go, going; go go go!

Flip your wings and fly up high!
You can do it if you try!
Like a bird up in the sky!

For the rhythm of life is a powerful beat,
Puts a tingle in your fingers and a tingle in your feet!
Rhythm on the inside rhythm on the street,
And the rhythm of life is a powerful beat!

Coffee, tea and conversation in the Common Room.

* Please rise in body or spirit

THE FIRST PARISH ADULT CHOIR

Bradford Conner, director

Soprano

Sara Angus
Bea Brunkhorst
Susan Hill
Stephanie Keep
Sandra LaBarge-Neumann
Beverley Matthews
Cynthia Mork
Julia Nelson
Alison Schroeder
Lisa Tohline
Janet Welby

Alto

Jennifer Clark
Sara Dodd
Marie Duprey
Karen Frederick
Laurie Groves
Marge Heckman
Dianne Marston
Takako Okamoto
Linda Pollitz
Luana Read
Sue Turner

Tenor

Mike Boczenowski
Rob Dobson
Buffie Groves
Brent Ranalli
Pam Spencer
Chris Tohline

Baritone/Bass

Dan Bostwick
Richie Conrad
Dean Groves
Craig Jackson
Chris Loschen
Allen Marshall
Robert Noble
Nao Okamoto
Wiliam Rasschaert
Benjamin Sears

FIRST PARISH YOUTH CHOIRS

Janet Welby, director

Junior & Senior Youth Choirs

Eliot Carroll
Ren Duprey-Ross
Claire Keep
Amy Keep
Cedric Last
Ella Martin
Kaitlyn Munsie
Kei Okamoto
Nao Okamoto
Sho Okamoto

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Steve Sussman – piano
Sandra LaBarge-Neumann – organ
Carol Epple – flute
Elizabeth Connors – clarinet
Nathan Kimball – cello
Dean Groves – percussion
Bradford Conner – conductor

Brad Conner, the adult choir and the Music Committee give special thanks to all the guest musicians who have joined us in creating such a wonderful service, to Frank Cunningham and our fantastic tech team including Kathryn McCafferty, Clayton Springer and Bob Batt for their aural and broadcasting support, to Andrea Cleghorn for her superb photographic skills, to Claudia Brooks and Brenda Rybicki for their cheerful support and assembling of the bulletin, help with scheduling spaces and a million other things, and to Nancy Daugherty for designing a terrific graphic for the front of today's bulletin.