



United First Parish Church

Order of Service

“Close Encounters of the Infinite Kind”

Sunday, April 11, 2021

PRELUDE *Arabesque*

By Debussy
Performed by Norman Corey

WELCOME AND OPENING WORDS

Christopher Taylor

CHALICE LIGHTING *Into the Peace of Wild Things*

By Wendell Berry

Everyone is invited to light a chalice or candle from wherever you may be.

COVENANT

Christopher Taylor

As a free fellowship of this historic church,
We unite to lift our hearts and open our minds to a larger reality;
To accept, support, and encourage one another;
To seek the wisdom in all religions;
To cherish and sustain the web of life;
And to strive for justice, compassion, and peace.

HYMN #92 *Mysterious Presence, Source of All*

Mysterious Presence, source of all--
the world without,
the soul within--thou fount of life,
O hear our call,
and pour thy living waters in.

Thou breathest in the rushing wind,
thy spirit stirs in leaf and flower;
nor wilt thou from the willing mind
withhold thy light and love and power.

Thy hand unseen to accents clear

awoke the psalmist's trembling lyre,
and touched the lips of holy seer
with flame from thine own altar fire.

That touch divine again impart,
still give the prophet's burning word;
and vocal in each waiting heart
let living psalms of praise be heard.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES *A Cormorant Spreads Its Wings*

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Bennett

JOYS AND SORROWS

Christopher Taylor

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Bennett

REFLECTIVE MUSIC *Canticles of the Sky: IV Sky with Endless Stars* By John Luther Adams
From *Wind in High Places*

READING From *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*
From *The Oversoul*

By Carlo Rovelli
By Ralph Waldo Emerson

SERMON *Close Encounters of the Infinite Kind*

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Bennett

HYMN #1064 *Blue Boat Home*

Though below me, I feel no motion standing on these mountains and plains.
Far away from the rolling ocean still my dry land heart can say:
I've been sailing all my life now, never harbor or port have I known.
The wide universe is the ocean I travel and the earth is my blue boat home.

Sun my sail and moon my rudder as I ply the starry sea,
leaning over the edge in wonder, casting questions into the deep.
Drifting here with my ship's companions, all we kindred pilgrim souls,
making our way by the lights of the heavens in our beautiful blue boat home.

I give thanks to the waves upholding me, hail the great winds urging me on,
greet the infinite sea before me, sing the sky my sailor's song:
I was born up on the fathoms, never harbor or port have I known.
The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.

OFFERTORY *Prelude*

By Henry Coleman
Performed by Norman Corey

Online donations can be made at <https://ufpc.org>

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Bennett

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE *Carry the Flame*

By Patricia Yates and Harold Brown

Performed by Lee Forest and Ann Marie Willer
Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again. (sung twice)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christopher Taylor

VIRTUAL SOCIAL HOUR

Please join us for a virtual social hour after the service.

SPECIAL THANKS

Worship Zoom Team: Joan McDonald, Christopher Taylor, Ann Marie Willer