

# Order of Service

*First Religious Society  
Unitarian Universalist*



*“If you want to go quickly, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.”*

— African Proverb

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Virtual services will be accessible via YouTube livestream,  
Zoom video conference, and audio-only via phone  
until further notice.

# Order of Service

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*March Ministry Theme: Generosity*

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

Justin Murphy-Mancini

## **MINDFULNESS BELL**

## **WELCOME TO THE SERVICE**

Julie Parker Amery

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Reverend Rebecca M. Bryan  
and Alex Matthews

**\*HYMN** #188 Come, Come Whoever You Are

## **CHALICE LIGHTING**

Rev. Bryan and Alex Matthews

We gather this hour as people of faith  
With joys and sorrows, gifts and needs.  
We light this beacon of hope,  
Sign of our quest  
For truth and meaning,  
In celebration of the life we share together.

**CANDLES OF PEACE** *ALL* Peace, Salam, Shalom

**RESPONSE** Oseh Shalom (*sung by all*)

## **\*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 humankind 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.

## **\*DOXOLOGY**

From all that dwell below the skies  
Let faith and hope with love arise;  
Let beauty, truth and good be sung  
Through every land, by every tongue.

*First Religious Society, Unitarian Universalist*

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**TIME FOR ALL AGES**                      “Friendship”                      Bruce Deveau

**TESTIMONIAL**    Members of the Youth Group

**OFFERTORY AND GIVING RITUAL**                      Justin Murphy-Mancini  
*Andantino*  
Charles-Valentin Alkan

**PASTORAL PRAYERS**                                      Rev. Bryan and Alex Matthews

**COMMUNITY RITUAL OF JOY AND SORROW**

**TIME OF SILENCE**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**                                      Justin Murphy-Mancini  
*Even Song*  
Kate Emma Boundy

**REFLECTIONS**    Alex Matthews and Rev. Bryan

**HYMN**      #123      Spirit of Life

**\*UNISON BENEDICTION**

May the Love which overcomes all differences,  
Which heals all wounds,  
Which puts to flight all fears,  
Which reconciles all who are separated,  
Be in us and among us now and always.

**BLESSING**    Rev. Bryan

**POSTLUDE**    Justin Murphy-Mancini  
*Choral phrygien*  
Jehan Alain

## Notes on today's service

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Alex Matthews is the Congregational Leader of Congregation Ahavas Achim in Newburyport. Alex has been part of the congregation since 2014; he took over the leadership role in August after enrolling in Rabbinical School at Hebrew College in Newton. You may also recognize Alex from the Heron Pond Farm Booth at the Newburyport Farmer's Market, which he staffed every Sunday for four years.

### *This Week's Questions to Ponder, Discuss and Hold...*

1. What partnerships can you imagine, or have you begun already, in this time of COVID-19?
2. What three words describe how you feel about this time we are in?
3. What has brought you joy or comfort over the last week?

# Notes on today's service

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We use the **mindfulness bell** at the start of each service as an invitation to center ourselves and open our minds and hearts to worship. The bell is rung three times.

## *Candles of Peace*

Each week we light these candles to represent two places on earth that especially need peace this week.

## *Candle Lighting for Joys and Concerns*

Please feel free to light a candle of joy and concern before the service.

## *Minister*

The Rev. Rebecca Bryan

## *Affiliated Ministers*

The Rev. Stanton Barrett

The Rev. Helen Murgida

## *Ministers Emeritus*

The Rev. Harold Babcock

The Rev. Bert Steeves

## *Today's Dedications*

The flowers for today's service are provided by Margery Powell and her daughter, Shaina Petroules, in loving memory of John Moss (1916-2003), Margery's father and Shaina's "Papa John."

## *March Collection for a Cause:*

Half of March's unpledged cash collection will go the Unitarian Universalist Association. The UUA will apply all that we give to a special national project called UU the Vote, which is devoted to getting the most people possible to register to vote and then to make it to the polls on election day. FRS is planning to join this campaign locally.

# ***Connect & Engage: Here's What's Going On***

**Update on Building and Facility Closure** – For the continued health and safety of everyone, the church has extended the closure of all buildings and facilities. For now, that closure will continue until April 8 to match area school and community programming closures. We continue to monitor and adhere to recommended safety advisories and will continue to update you as the situation evolves.

All activities including worship and meetings will happen online. Visit our web site, [www.frsuu.org](http://www.frsuu.org), for more information about virtual programming and live stream worship services. Read details on what this means from our March 13 edition of Journeying Together: <https://conta.cc/2Wc5igs>

**FRS is Here for You** – Do you have to take unpaid time off to care for your family? Has your pay been affected by a loss in hours, or even of your job? There are funds available through the Minister's Discretionary Fund to help members who are experiencing financial stress during this time. Please contact Reverend Rebecca, [RevRebecca.Bryan@frsuu.org](mailto:RevRebecca.Bryan@frsuu.org), or Kristen Fehlhaber, [kristen.fehlhaber@frsuu.org](mailto:kristen.fehlhaber@frsuu.org).

**Let's Stay Connected** – As the days go by, and some of us are starting to feel isolated, a phone call from a fellow parishioner might feel very welcome indeed. If you'd like to volunteer to give someone a call, please let us know! Also let us know if you'd like to receive a call. This will be a great way for us all to stay connected. Please contact Susan Ricker of Parish Friends at [smricker@aol.com](mailto:smricker@aol.com), 978-618-8389, to sign up.

**Annual Campaign** – We want to thank you for your generosity, and we look forward to the time when we're all back together in our beautiful second home. If you have any questions about the campaign or pledging, feel free to reach out to Annual Campaign Co-Chairs Eileen and Steve Costello at: [emvcostello@comcast.net](mailto:emvcostello@comcast.net)

## **How to Pledge**

Online: [www.frsuu.org/pledge](http://www.frsuu.org/pledge)

By Phone: call Kristen Fehlhaber at (978) 578-2486 (cell) or leave a message at (978) 465-0602 ext. 404.

By Email: email your pledge amount to Kristen at [campaign@frsuu.org](mailto:campaign@frsuu.org)

By Mail: mail your pledge card to FRS, 26 Pleasant St., Newburyport, MA 01950

**Zoom Virtual Programming.** Unless otherwise noted, Zoom access information for all programs is as follows:

To join a Zoom meeting online:

<https://zoom.us/j/4848186518>

Meeting ID: 484 818 6518

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,4848186518# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,4848186518# US (New York)

Dial by phone:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 484 818 6518

## **Programming Schedule Next Week**

### **Monday, March 23 - 1pm and 6pm**

Justin Murphy Mancini, “At the Organ”

### **Tuesday, March 24 - 11am**

Julie Parker Amery, “Reflection and spiritual talk”

### **Wednesday, March 25 - Noon**

Rev. Rebecca, “Let’s Do Lunch” – a virtual potluck – bring your lunch and join the discussion.

### **Thursday, March 26 - 6pm**

Reflection by Rev. Rebecca

### **Friday, March 27 - Noon**

Julie Parker Amery, “Let’s Do Lunch” – a virtual potluck – bring your lunch and join the discussion.

## STAFF

**Minister**—Reverend Rebecca M. Bryan; **Religious Education Assistant**—Sharon Broll; **Office Administrator**—Diane Carroll; **Youth Group Coordinator**—Becky Dill; **Director of Finance and Administration**—Kristen Fehlhaber; **Acting Director of Children’s Ministry**—Mara Flynn; **Director of Church Music**—Justin Murphy-Mancini; **Head Usher**—John Mercer; **Youth Music Director**—Kristen Miller; **Director of Faith Formation and Spiritual Exploration**—Julie Parker Amery; **Sexton**—Don Rogers; **Director of Community Engagement**—Nicole Salemi

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:*

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



Connect with Us!

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

[info@frsuu.org](mailto:info@frsuu.org)

978-465-0602

[facebook.com/frsuu/](https://facebook.com/frsuu/)

*The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:*

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

*Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.*