

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

*Unitarian Universalist*

Sunday, September 6, 2020 10 AM

**"Grounded in Faith"**

Presented by The Grounds Committee

## Gathering

**Prelude**                      *The Girl I Mean to Be*                      from "The Secret Garden" by Marsha Norman

**Welcome & Announcements**    Trisha Guditz, Worship Committee

**Call to Worship**    *Grounded* by Jess Reynolds    Sonja Furneaux

**Chalice Lighting**    *Quote from Rumi*    Sonja Furneaux

"Very little grows on jagged rock. Be ground. Be crumbled, so wildflowers will come up where you are."

**Opening Song**    *The Garden Song* by David Mallett    Paul & Nancy Rodriguez

Inch by inch, row by row  
Gonna make this garden grow  
All it takes is a rake and a hoe  
And a piece of fertile ground  
Inch by inch, row by row  
Please bless these seeds I sow  
Please warm them from below  
Till the rain comes tumbling down

Pulling weeds and picking stones  
Man is made of dreams and bones  
Feel the need to grow my own  
Cause the time is close at hand  
Grain for grain, sun and rain  
Find my way in nature's chain  
Tune my body and my brain  
To the music from the land  
[Repeat Chorus]

Plant your rows straight and long  
Temper them with prayer and song

Mother Earth will make you strong  
If you give her love and care  
Old crow watching hungrily  
From his perch in yonder tree  
In my garden I'm as free  
As that feathered thief up there  
[Repeat Chorus]  
[Repeat Chorus]

### Sharing

#### **Covenant and Affirmation**

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

From all that dwell below the skies  
let words of love and peace arise.  
Let joyful songs of praise be sung,  
through every land, by every tongue.

#### **Joys and Sorrows**

Ingrid Holcomb, Lay Minister

#### **Message for all Ages and Meditation**

Sonja Furneaux

### Exploring

#### **Sharing Our Gifts**

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

Hymn #100

I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river in my soul  
I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got love like an ocean  
I've got love like an ocean  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul  
I've got love like an ocean  
I've got love like an ocean  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul

I've got joy like a fountain  
I've got joy like a fountain  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul  
I've got joy like a fountain  
I've got joy like a fountain  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul

This month we share our weekly offering with Bridges to Malawi, Degede Village Project, and  
Sheroes Hangout

Checks may be made to "First Parish Church" and sent to the Church at:  
Pledges: attn: Pledge Secretary, PO Box 215, Stow MA 01775  
Donations: attn: Treasurer, 353 Great Rd, Stow MA 01775

We also invite you to donate by text to (978) 310-3309;  
or donate online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>

<b>Readings</b>	<i>The Waking</i> by Theodore Roethke <i>How I Go to the Woods</i> by Mary Oliver	Sonja Furneaux
-----------------	--	----------------

<b>Sermon</b>	<i>Grounded in Faith</i>	Sonja Furneaux
---------------	--------------------------	----------------

### **Returning**

<b>Hymn #1064</b>	<i>Blue Boat Home</i>
-------------------	-----------------------

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 ships 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 upon 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  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel  
And the earth is my blue boat home

<b>Benediction</b>	Sonja Furneaux
--------------------	----------------

## Sung Benediction

Peace be with you 'til we meet again!  
As life lays its task before you,  
keep love's banner floating o'er you.  
Peace be with you 'till we meet again.

**If you are interested in learning more about the Grounded in Faith campus program,  
please stay in the main room with Sonja after the service and/or email her at  
Sonja.Furneau@gmail.com.**

Those who are on Zoom may remain  
for a virtual "coffee hour" at the end of the service.

Thank you to members of the Grounds Committee—Bill Froberg, Phil Moseley, and Trish  
Woods—and to all those who helped with this service,  
and to our staff, board, and other leaders.



*First Parish is a Unitarian  
Universalist Association Welcoming  
Congregation. We warmly welcome  
gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender  
people into our community.*

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister  
Michelle Cote, Director of Religious Education  
Deedee Perkins, Parish Administrator  
Dr. Mike Pfitzer, Director of Music  
Sanghee Kim, Organist/Pianist  
Joleen Trotta, Welcoming & Membership Coordinator  
Janet Beatrice, External Publicity

Katy Weeks, President  
Sharon Brownfield, Vice President  
Bill Froberg, Treasurer  
Helen Ham, Clerk

On the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook