

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, July 17, 2022
10:00 AM

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements
Call to Worship

Marcia Allison, Worship Committee
Sonja Furneaux

Chalice Lighting Words

Be a **lamp** to yourself. Be **your own confidence**. **Hold** on to the **truth within yourself** as to the **only truth**. - quote by Gautama Buddha

Opening Hymn # 6

Just as long as I have Breath

Lyrics: Alicia C. Carpenter
Music: Johann G. Ebeling

Sharing

Covenant

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.

Affirmation

Congregation

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

Prayer or Meditation

Sonja Furneaux

Responsive Reading # 603

Beyond Words

Lao-Tse

Existence is beyond the power of words to define:
Terms may be used but none of them absolute.

In the beginning of heaven and earth there were no words,
Words come out of the womb of matter;

And whether we dispassionately see to the core of life or passionately see the surface, the
core and the surface are essentially the same,
Words making them seem different only to express appearance.

If Name be needed, wonder names them both:
from wonder into wonder existence opens.

Exploring

Sharing Our Gifts

This month we share our weekly offering with _____.
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
or donate online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate> or by text to (978) 310-3309.

Hymm #34 *Though I may speak with bravest fire* Words: Hall Hopson
Trad. English melody

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain as sounding brass and hopeless gain
2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be gi'en by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole
Let inward love guide every deed, by this we worship and are freed

Sermon **The Power of No** Sonja Furneaux

Returning

Closing Hymn # 1064 *Blue Boat Home* Words: Peter Mayer
Music: Roland High Prichard

Benediction

Sung Benediction

Congregation

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.



Those who are on Zoom may remain
for a virtual “coffee hour” following the postlude.
If you're in the “drive-in church”, honk and wave to each other!
Thank you to our helpers today: Marcia Allison and 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 and on Facebook.