

August 27, 2023 10:00 AM

Gathering

Prelude *Mad World* Trish Woods, Piano
Michael Andrew Michael McKendry, Clarinet

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, & Announcements Marcia Allison, Committee on Ministry

Chalice Lighting “Late Fragment” Elizabeth Cobblah, SCTP Host
by Raymond Carver

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 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.

Centering

Joys and Sorrows Hector Constantzos, Lay Minister

Prayer/ Meditation Be ye lamps unto yourselves;
Be your own confidence.
Hold to the truth within yourselves
As to the only lamp.”
Buddhist Teaching

Exploring

Sharing Our Gifts

In July and August we share our offering with both Horizons at LMS and Libros Para Todos. You may donate with a check made out to “First Parish Church,” online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or text (978) 310-3309.

Anthem *Gymnopedie #1* Trish Woods, Piano
Eric Satie Michael McKendry, Clarinet

Poem & Discussion

“The Guest House”

By Rumi (Translation: by Coleman Barks)

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they’re a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

Closing Song

Returning

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.

Postlude

I Lived One Voice Children’s Choir
Ryen Tedder

☪
Thank you to:
Elizabeth Cobblah, Co-host
Marcia Allison, Usher
Trish Woods, Piano
Michael McKendry, Clarinet
and our staff and leadership
☪

*First Parish Church
of Stow and Acton*
Unitarian Universalist



Sunday, August 27, 2023