

# Order Of Service – January 3rd, 2021

## *Imagining Middlesex Fells*

**Music for Contemplation:** *Begin Sweet World, Innisfree* and *Morning Song* by Bill Douglas, feat. Richard Stoltzman, clarinet. Photos by Steve Schmidt, Joseph Walters and Susan Jhirad; Joshua Woroniecki from Pexels; and © Soul Matters.

### **Sound of the Bell**

**Prelude:** [\*Prelude in C Major\*](#), from *The Well Tempered Clavier*, by J.S. Bach. Performed by Sam Chan.

**Opening Words:** *Our Whole System*, by Maria Mitchell (*Singing the Living Tradition* #537).

### **Welcome**

### **Chalice Lighting**

### **Covenant**

Love is the heart of this church.

We commit to:

Being a diverse, welcoming community of mutual care and respect;  
Supporting each other's spiritual journey and search for truth and meaning;  
Promoting justice and serving the wider community.

We hold ourselves to this promise with compassion and understanding.

**Hymn:** *Here We Have Gathered*, words by Alicia S. Carpenter, music from the Genevan psalter. (*Singing the Living Tradition* #360). Performed by Brendan O'Brine.

Here we have gathered, gathered side by side;  
Circle of kinship, come and step inside!  
May all who seek here find a kindly word;  
May all who speak here feel they have been heard.  
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.

Here we have gathered, called to celebrate  
Days of our lifetime, matters small and great:  
We of all ages, women, children, men,  
Infants and sages, sharing what we can.  
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.

Life has its battles, sorrows, and regret:  
But in the shadows, let us not forget:  
We who now gather know each other's pain;  
Kindness can heal us; as we give, we gain.  
Sing now in friendship this, our hearts' own song.

## **Candles of Joy, Sorrow and Milestones**

### **Meditation**

**Offering:** *Red Wing Blackbird*, composed and performed by Molly Ruggles.

**Reading:** *The Relations of Vegetable and Animal Life* by Elizur Wright, Jr.

**Anthem:** *What a Wonderful World*, by Louis Armstrong, performed by Molly Ruggles.

**Sermon:** *Imaging Middlesex Fells*

**Hymn:** *I Wish I Knew How*, words and music by Billy Taylor and Dick Dallas.  
(*Singing the Living Tradition* #151). Performed by Molly Ruggles.

I wish I knew how it would feel to be free  
I wish I could break all these chains holding me.  
I wish I could say all the things I could say,  
Say 'em loud, say 'em clear, for the whole world to hear.  
Say 'em loud, say 'em clear, for the whole world to hear.

I wish I could share all the love in my heart,  
Remove all the bars that still keep us apart.  
I wish you could know what it means to be me,  
Then you'd see and agree everyone should be free.  
Then you'd see and agree everyone should be free.

I wish I could give all I'm longing to give.  
I wish I could live like I'm longing to live  
I wish I could do all the things I can do,  
Though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.  
Though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.

I wish I could be like a bird in the sky.  
How sweet it would be if I found I could fly.  
I'd soar to the sun and look down at the sea.  
Then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.  
Then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.

### **Closing Words**

**Postlude:** [Dance \(Z. 629\)](#) from *The Fairy Queen* by Henry Purcell. Performed by Papalin.

*Question for coffee-hour discussion:* What new things do you imagine will sprout from the dead stumps of 2020?