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## *First Parish in Malden, Universalist*

**Mission Statement** | Worship is what we do when we gather together, take risks for justice, embrace difference, and give back. Worship is what we do. This is what it looks like.



# **Why Stories Survive**

December 28, 2025

*Join our  
newsletter*



*Give to the plate  
electronically.*



*New here?  
Fill out a  
guest card.*



*Join our  
Discord server*



**Prelude** *The Evening Star* by Felix Medelssohn  
Ruben Piirainen

**Gathering Hymn** #396 I Know This Rose Will Open  
UUCP Virtual Choir

**Opening Words** Erik Fearing

**Lighting of the Chalice** People of Memory  
By Kimberlee Anne Tomczak Carlson

We are a People of Memory.  
As inheritors of our ancestors' legacy, we hold their stories tenderly.  
Gleaning wisdom from diverse journeys; united in hope for the future.  
Guide us to trust in love as we kindle this flame together.

**Greeting** We invite you to greet your neighbor.  
Take time to go over to someone you haven't met.

**Music** Bright Morning Star by Matt Meyer  
Mark David Buckles

**Our Covenant** *We, the members of the First Parish in Malden, covenant in friendship to create together a community of respect, equality, openness, trust, and compassion. We pledge ourselves to hospitality, understanding, spiritual growth, sharing, and participation.*

**Time for All Ages** Paul Kuttner  
*I am a Story* by Dan Yaccarino  
published by Harper Collins

**Children's Recessional** *Be Open* by Debbie Nargi-Brown

**Reading** Erik Fearing  
From *A Short History of Myth*  
by Karen Armstrong

**Hymn** #15 The Lone Wild Bird  
UU Virtual Singers of the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos

**Message** Paul Kuttner

**Offering and Thanksgiving** Worthy Now Prison Ministry

**Offertory Music** #1069 Ancient Mother, Jess Huetteman  
#1010 We Give Thanks

**Joys, Concerns, and Milestones**



**Pastoral Prayer** Paul Kuttner  
The Storyteller's Prayer by Leah Lamb

**Sounding of the Bell and Time of Silence**

**Closing Hymn** We Are by Dr. Ysaye Barnwell  
with the UUA GA 2020 Virtual Choir

**Extinguishing the Chalice** *We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, The warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we meet again.*

**Our Story** Abi Harper

**Benediction** Paul Kuttner

**Postlude** *Sarabande* by Edvard Grieg  
Ruben Piirainen

*Join us for coffee hour in Durgin Hall after the service.*

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