

**Jean Hill Memorial  
ORDER OF SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 25, 2017 TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING**

**Organ Prelude Medley of American Music**

**Welcome**

Good morning and welcome to First Parish in Concord my name is Reverend Jo VonRue and I am glad you could all be here today as we gather to celebrate Jean Hill's life. We are gathered here today in memory and celebration of the life of your mother, your grandmother, your friend... When a good person dies, we gather--family and friends--for many reasons. Life has touched us with deep grief and we need one another's company for our own comfort.

Just to be together, to look in friends' faces and see the common expression of hurt takes away the loneliness of our feelings and draws our hearts together in the blessed healing that people can do for one another. At a time such as this, the various faiths, which sustain us separately, come together in a harmony which acts across all creeds and assures us of the permanence of goodness, the inspiration of dedication, and the value of a human life. We find ourselves trying to express not just our grief, but also our joyful feeling for Jean. We recall our love for her and we recall her love for us.

**\* Unison Chalice Lighting**

At each of our gatherings in this place we light our chalice as a symbol of hope and strength in our world, and so it is fitting that we would light it here now in remembrances of Jean's life as she too was a symbol of hope and strength. Please join me in reading the unison chalice lighting words which can be found in your order of service. In our time of grief, we light a flame of sharing, the flame of ongoing life. In this time when we search for understanding and serenity in the face of loss, we light this sign of our quest for truth, meaning, and community.

— **Christine Robinson**

**Reading "Ithaka"**

Mac, Paige & Tory Hill

## **Tributes**

Jill Appel & Kris Kaczor

### **\* Responsive Reading No. 660**

Avery and Ryan, will you please come up?

I am going to ask you to turn in your grey hymnals to reading number 660, that is six hundred sixty. Avery and Ryan will take turns reading the Roman text, if you would all respond with the italicized text.

**“To Live Deliberately”** by Henry David Thoreau

Avery Regen & Ryan Hill

## **Tribute**

William Hill

### **\* Hymn no. 123, "Spirit of Life"**

## **Tribute**

John Hill

## **Sharing of Friends and Family**

I'm sure you all are so thankful for all of the wonderful memories that Jill, Kris, William, and John have shared with us. I was not blessed to have known Jean and I feel like know her passion, courage and resilience so much more after hearing these beautiful tributes. The family and I would also like to take some time to allow you to share some stories, if you wish, about Jean. If you would just raise your hand, I will come around with the microphone, please remember to speak directly into it, otherwise no one will hear you. I will start with the family, do any of you wish to share a story with us?

## **Pastoral Prayer**

Please join me in the spirit of prayer or meditation

Spirit of life and love, spirit of grief and of joy...

We pray now for those we miss. For things long gone. For Jean, whose love and strength we hold in our hands and in our hearts —we pray.

We pray for memories of Jean to stay strong Memories of words and warmth, of actions and stillness. We pray for Love shared and lived, Love to remain with us and with her memory, for that to become enough. We pray for the courage to put our feet on the floor when we wake. To move through the day with care.

Oh, Love, that holds us all: hold on to all those gathered here while they hold on to who they have lost. And may Jean's memories live forever in the hearts and minds of all those who loved her.

Blessed Be, Shalom, and Amen.

**\* Closing Anthem, no. 205,**

"Amazing Grace," arr., Fabrizio Ferrari

### **Invitation:**

As we begin to close our service, I want to thank you all for coming to remember and celebrate Jean and her life. The family will receive guests in the vestibule at the back of the sanctuary. There are stairs down to the bottom floor also in the vestibule, and there is an elevator here at the front for anyone who may wish to use it.

### **Closing Words**

Spirit of Life be with us. Give us the peace of acceptance and understanding, and the assurance in those things that never die--those things that pass from person to person through the generations into eternity-- especially Love. In the spirit of love we have gathered. In the spirit of love we now depart.

### **Benediction:**

At each of our gatherings we light a chalice and so it is that we also say our benediction at the close of our gatherings, today we say it in honor of the life and love that Jean has given us, her inspiration to move forward in the world with a mission and with love. Please join me in reading the benediction which can be found in your order of service.