

FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BR  **KLYN**
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

"People often speak of God being even-handed. God is not even-handed. God is biased, in favor of the weak, of the despised." - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

ORDER OF SERVICE

January 16, 2022 | 11 am

The Sounding Bowl calls us into silence

Prelude | *Offertoire* by Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn 347 | Gather the Spirit

Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our sep'rate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

(Chorus)

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.

Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more.

(Chorus)

Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one.

(Chorus)

Lighting the Chalice | Mark Rinzel, Lay Worship Leader
(responsive reading)

Blessed is the fire of our faith, and the chalice of our community;
Blessed is the living tradition that is carried forward in our work and in our love.
Blessed is the transient flame we kindle here;
Blessed is the illuminated moment of our gathering.
Blessed is the light of the eternal;
Blessed is the sacred call of life to which we give ourselves in answer.

Song of Hope

Welcome

Announcements | Garnett Losak, Director of Congregational Life

Wisdom Story | *I Will Be Fierce!* by Bea Birdsong
Meagan Henry, Director of Education and Family Ministry

Anthem | *Dream Variations* (from *Three Dream Portraits*)
words by Langston Hughes / setting by Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)
Kiena Williams, soloist

Silent Meditation

Prayer | Rev. Dr. Kelly Murphy Mason, First U Member & former Community Minister

Sharing Names of Loved Ones Online

Offertory | *There Is A Balm In Gilead*
Traditional Spiritual arr. William L. Dawson (1899-1990)

This week's Share the Plate recipient is The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, for victims of the Bronx apartment house fire that killed 17 people, 8 of whom were children. The entire donation will support the distribution of emergency relief supplies.

Donations to First Unitarian can be made at www.fuub.org (Choose the Support First Unitarian Button) or Give By Text 347-735-5264

Reading | Excerpt from "The Most Durable Power" by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Always be sure that you struggle with Christian methods and Christian weapons. Never succumb to the temptation of becoming bitter. As you press on for justice, be sure to move with dignity and discipline, using only the weapon of love. Let no man pull you so low as to hate him. Always avoid violence. ...

I still believe that standing up for the truth of God is the greatest thing in the world. This is the end of life. The end of life is not to be happy. The end of life is not to achieve pleasure and avoid pain. The end of life is to do the will of God, come what may...I still believe that love is the most durable power in the world.

Hymn 131 | Love Will Guide Us

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot speak before thousands,
you can give from deep within you.
You can change the world with your love.

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

Closing Hymn 199 | Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

(Chorus)

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Benediction

This week's online host: Beth Evans
Livestream Producers: Robin Bossert

Due to the COVID-19 Omicron surge, our services will be online only through January. Please join us on Facebook Live or email information@fuub.org for a zoom link. We will return to Sanctuary services as soon as we can do so without undue danger to our members and friends. Thank you for your understanding.

MUSIC NOTES:

Margaret Bonds did much to promote the music of Black musicians. Her own compositions and lyrics addressed racial issues of the time. She was the first Black musician to perform as a soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She is best remembered today for her popular arrangements of African-American spirituals and frequent collaborations with Langston Hughes.

***Dream Variations* by Langston Hughes**

To fling my arms wide in some place of the sun,
To whirl and to dance till the white day is done.
Then rest at cool evening beneath a tall tree
While night comes on gently, dark like me- That is my dream!

To fling my arms wide in the face of the sun,
Dance! Whirl! Whirl! Till the quick day is done.
Rest at pale evening... A tall, slim tree...
Night coming tenderly
Black like me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

First Unitarian Crafts Ministry at Home - Begins Thursday, January 20th, 6:30PM

With winter and another COVID lockdown keeping us all home, we are re-starting First U's Crafts Ministry. Grab a beverage, snack, and your latest craft project and join other UU crafters for fellowship and fun. We will meet on the third Thursday evenings. questions? contact Lee Pardee (leepardee54@gmail.com) for a Zoom link. All are welcome!

Membership at First Unitarian

If you've been attending services for "a while" and feel you have found a spiritual home here at First Unitarian, you may be ready to join the congregation as a voting member. We are planning a new member Sunday for mid-February assuming we can gather in person at that time. At that time, new members will sign our historic membership book and be officially welcomed during the worship service. For more information contact Garnett Losak (garnett@fuub.org) Read more here <https://www.fuub.org/home/community/membership/>

Thank you to everyone who donated shoes to our Soles for Souls campaign!

Nancy Wolf and Rita & Derek Pearl dropped off approximately 12 dozen pairs of shoes that will help to build small business in Haiti. Thank you to the members of Weaving Social Justice for bringing this project to First Unitarian!

Serve your Congregation at the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly!

June 22-26, 2022, in Portland, OR or Online. General Assembly (GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists where participants make policy for the Association through democratic process. This year, there will be both in-person and digital options. Five or six members of First U will serve as delegates who will worship, witness, learn, connect, and help shape policy for years to come. For more information, visit the UUA website (uua.org/ga) or contact leadership development committee members Laurel Lesio, (llesio@gschool.org) or Catalina Bertani (tanrara@gmail.com). For FAQ's and an application to be a delegate visit www.fuub.org/home/members/nominating-committee/. Applications will be accepted until February 1st.