

FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY BROKLYN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

WHOEVER YOUARE

Whoever you are Whomever you love Wherever you are on your life journey You are welcome here.

SONG OF HOPE

From all that dwell below the skies Let songs of hope and faith arise. Let peace, good will on earth be sung Through every land by every tongue.

LIGHTING THE CHALICE

Read Responsively:

Blessed is the fire of our faith, and the chalice of our community;

Blessed is the living tradition that is carrie forward in our work and in our love

Blessed is the transient flame we kindle here; Blessed is the illuminated moment of our gathering.

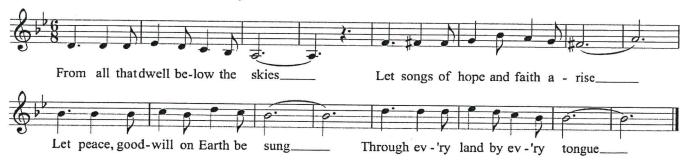
Blessed is the light of the eternal;

Blessed is the sacred call of life to which
we give ourselves in answer.

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL



SONG OF HOPE FOR JAZZ SUNDAY



Choosing Unitarian Universalism

Welcome to First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, where we are exploring the themes of *choice* and *faith* through words, music, silence, prayer, and community.

Gathering **♪** Gathering Music

During this gathering time, let's sing together, creating warm, sacred space. We stand, sit, and dance as we feel moved, and we may light candles to bring our private prayers into the sanctuary.

- ♪ Fire of Commitment (#1028)
- ♪ Whoever You Are (inside cover)

Chalice Lighting (inside cover)

♪ Song of Hope (inside cover)

Greeting

Deepening Wisdom Story

Children's Blessing & Recessional

Silent Meditation & Prayer

Candle Lighting

Reading: excerpt from the foreword of A Chosen Faith, by Rev. Robert Fulghum

♪ Brief Our Days (from Cantata147) by J.S. Bach / words by Kenneth L. Patton

Sermon

▶ Be Ours a Religion (#1058)

Connecting Offering

♪ Our Time by Stephen Sondheim (from Merrily We Roll Along)

Announcements

♪ Come and Go With Me (#1018)

Benediction

The Fire of Commitment



Note: The use of percussion is highly recommended.

⊕ Words: Mary Katherine Morn, 1961 - and Jason Shelton, 1972 -

⊕ Music: Jason Shelton, 1972 – , © 2001 Jason Shelton FIRE OF COMMITMENT, 8.7.8.7 with refrain





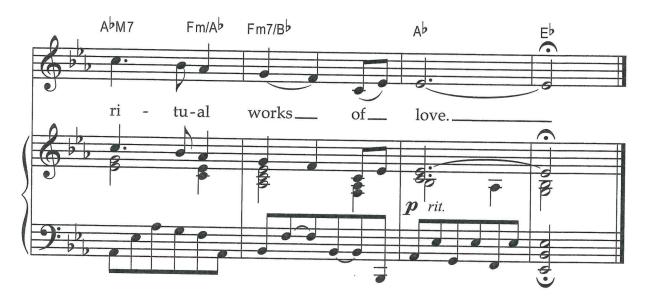
Be Ours a Religion



 \oplus Words: Theodore Parker, 1810 – 1860

 \oplus Music: Thomas Benjamin, 1940 – , © 1998 Yelton Rhodes Music (ASCAP). Used by permission.

Be Ours a Religion - 2



1018 Come and Go with Me



Words & music: African-American spiritual, slavery period, arr. Kenny Smith. 1965 –



- 3. There'll be justice in that land. . .
- 4. There'll be singin' in that land. . .

Sermon Rev. Micah C. Ma
Wisdom Story Marci Lucia
Music Director Adam Podd
Announcements Garnett Losak, Director of Congregational Life

Our Lay Worship Leader is Bob Bero
Our Lay Pastoral Minister is ET Boyle
Our Livestream Producer is Justin Parkinson
Our Online Host is Yvonne Garrett
Connections Table Hosts are Brian Elig & Colleen Olson

NOTES:

Mystical reading by Rev. Dr. Forrest Church

MUSIC NOTES:

Dennis Wees, soloist (*Our Time*) Katie Kresek, violin

Kenneth Leo Patton (1911-1994), identified as one of the major poets and a prophet of contemporary liberal religion, was a voice for a poetic, naturalistic humanism at a time when most humanists were defining a religion of reason. Minister and scholar David Bumbaugh has summed up Patton's work: "It was he who taught a monotone rationalism how to sing; it was he who taught a stumble-footed humanism how to dance; it was he who cried 'Look!' and taught our eyes to see the glory in the ordinary."

Text for Brief Our Days:

Brief our days but long for singing, when to sing is made our call. For a million stars now flinging light upon this earthly ball. In a setting of what splendor are we given chance to render tribute for the whirling sky, where we live and where we die

Today in Religious Education:

• Nursery, Toddler, Pre-K / 11 AM-12:30 PM. Drop off at the 50 Monroe Classroom. Pick up after the service.

The children will recess to the McKinney Chapel following the wisdom story. We'll have a short rehearsal for the song "One Beautiful Light", which the kids will sing at the December 21st pageant, and then the teachers will escort them to their classrooms.

- Grades K-1 / Love Surrounds Us / Eastman Room
- Grades 2-3 / Moral Tales / Green Room
- Grades 4-5 / Toolbox of Faith / Frances White Room
- Grades 6-7/ Building Bridges / 3rd Floor Teen Room
- Grades 8-9 / Coming of Age / 11:00-12:30 Library
- Grades 10-12 / HS Youth Group / 12:30-1:30 / 3rd Floor Teen Room

PAGEANT REHEARSAL 12:30 in the Sanctuary

Registration is Open and Ongoing!

Your child/children must be registered in order to participate in our programs. Use the QR code to register your child today!



All are welcome at fellowship in the undercroft, following the service.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Today at First Unitarian:

Queer Community @ First U, Today, 12:45-2PM

Please join us every first Sunday of the month after services/fellowship in the Francis White Room. Newcomers are always welcome! For more information, to join, or to share an event please email queercommunity-admin@firstubrooklyn.org.

* Transition Team Discussion: Who Does What Around Here?, Today, 1:00-2:30PM

Did you know that one of the results of our summer survey was that our congregation highly values **collaboration and equity**? Join the Transition Team in a discussion on how to advance these values as we move forward toward Search. How can we live these values through the staffing model for clergy, sustainable and fair expectations for our lay staff, along with robust volunteerism and leadership by members and friends?

How will we adjust to the departures of Rev. Meagan and Garnett, organizationally? How do we ensure that First U remains a vibrant, ever-growing, and joyful community? We will meet in the Chapel. Please join us for a lively discussion!

- **Collaboration:** Growing our own capacities through "shared ministry" and "co-creation" by clergy, lay staff, and congregants
- **Equity:** Balancing workload and financial compensation for lay staff with operational and congregational demands

Meditation Group meets Sundays, 10:00AM

All are welcome to come together on Sunday mornings for a peaceful hour of meditation in preparation for the worship service. We begin with a short reading. No experience is needed. We meet in the Teen Room on the 3rd Floor. For more information contact Daniel Walters. (dpwalters@gmail.com)

Looking Forward:

Friday Night Open Mic! Friday, December 12th, 6:30 -9:00 pm

This month, let's celebrate the holidays AND Frank Sinatra's birthday! Bring your favorite holiday song, poem, story, or monologue to share. We'll have an accompanist for singers (or for background music for a spoken piece if you choose). Refreshments will be available. Future dates are: Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 24, May 8, Jun 12. For more info or to rsvp, contact Wendy Russell (wendy@firstubrooklyn.org).

Let's Celebrate Garnett! Sunday, December 14th, 12:45

Director of Congregational Life Garnett Losak's last Sunday is December 14th, so let's all celebrate her dedication to First U in her style: no toasts or speeches or fancy frills, just connection and community. Find the festivities in both the Chapel and the Undercroft after the service.

Please be respectful of the scent free area below the west balcony. Choose another area of the Sanctuary if you use perfumes, scented soaps, essential oils or scented laundry supplies.

Young Adult Brunch, Sunday, December 14th, following the service

The first Sunday of each month, First U's Young Adult group gathers to have brunch together after the service. This month we will be going to Junior's Restaurant in Downtown Brooklyn. We will gather in the undercroft following the service and walk over together. We will have two big announcements during the brunch this month!

Join First Unitarian For the Winter Holidays

Holiday Pageant

Sunday, December 21st, 11:00AM

Christmas Eve Family Service

Wednesday, December 24th, 3:30PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24th, 5:00PM

Mid-Holiday Vespers

Sunday, December 28th, 4:00PM

Coming to First U in January 2026: Soul Matters

First U is launching a new small ministry group called Soul Matters, a monthly space to deepen connection with each other and ourselves by discussing the "Big Questions." Through individual and small group work, we'll delve into monthly themes like belonging, practicing resistance, and paying attention—to name a few! Join us for an info session on 1/11 in the Francis White Room to learn more, or check www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com.

Share the Plate December: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

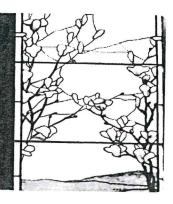


Grounded in the belief that all people are worthy of dignity and power, the UUSC has worked for nearly 80 years to advance human rights and social justice around the world. For more information www.uusc.org

Donations to First Unitarian are received with gratitude. Scan the QR code to the left to be taken directly to our online portal. Checks to First Unitarian or cash may be dropped in the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity.



The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn is a joyful, loving, religious community that inspires and empowers people to Grow spiritually, Care for one another, and Work for social justice and stewardship of the earth.



Unitarian Universalist Values and Covenant

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Our congregation is located on a hill near a place where two waterways join and empty into the Atlantic Ocean.

We honor with gratitude the land and the Lenape people who cared for it through many generations. We acknowledge the contributions and experiences of Native peoples, and in tribute to them, pay homage, and strive to learn how to be in better relationship with the earth we all inhabit.

In order to reduce our use of paper, this order of service cover is re-used. If there's information you need, feel free to take it with you, otherwise, please leave it in your pew.

To protect our historic building, please refrain from bringing food into the Sanctuary. Liquids in closed containers are welcome.

At First U, it's very important to us that we care for one another.

After the service a member of our Caring Ministry will be in the Chapel of All Faiths. If you are going through a hard time or if you are concerned about someone else, we invite you to come and connect with them. We very much want to hear from you.

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FIRST UNITARIAN BROKLYN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

CONGREGATION ORGANIZED IN 1833

BUILDING DEDICATED IN 1844

CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Micah C. Ma, micah@firstubrooklyn.org *Interim Senior Minister*

Rev. Meagan Henry, meagan@firstubrooklyn.org Assistant Minister, Education, Family & Pastoral Care

Adam Podd, adam@firstubrooklyn.org *Director of Music*

Garnett Losak, garnett@firstubrooklyn.org *Director of Congregational Life*

Wendy Russell, wendy@firstubrooklyn.org Office Manager/Bookkeeper/RE Assistant

Renee Strickland, renee@firstubrooklyn.org *Director of Facilities*

John McKeown, john@firstubrooklyn.org *Building Engineer*

Bobby Blackman, bobby@firstubrooklyn.org *Sexton*

Sean Sellers, sean@firstubrooklyn.org *Youth Coordinator*

Yvonne Garrett, yvonne@firstubrooklyn.org *Intern Minister*

OFFICE

48 Monroe Place Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel (718) 624-5466 Info@firstubrooklyn.org

Office Hours:

Sunday 9:00-2:00 / Monday by appt Tues – Wed - Thurs |10:00 am-4:00 pm Office Closed Friday & Saturday

OFFICERS

Anne Calder & Mark Weiss Co-Presidents, Board of Trustees

Trustees:

Vicki Antonini, Michele Ascione, Barbara Bornmann, Julie Elting, Luke Messina, Amanda Nietzel, Jake Powell

Sarah Morgan | Clerk of the Society

Lee Pardee | Treasurer

James Goward | Moderator

Deacons:

Robert Bero, Thomas Check, Liz Davis, Beth Evans, Patrick Gunn, Laurel Lesio-Eisenstadt, Edwin Lord, Lee Pardee, Nancy Wolf

Senior Deacon: Constance Newsom

Music Director Emeritus: William Peek
Bert Eisenstadt Children's Music Director
Phylisa St. Fleur Nursery Caregiver
Ruby Stackhouse Nursery Caregiver

EMAIL: info@firstubrooklyn.org

WEB: www.fuub.org

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FACEBOOK:

First Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn

GIVE BY TEXT (855) 799-2543