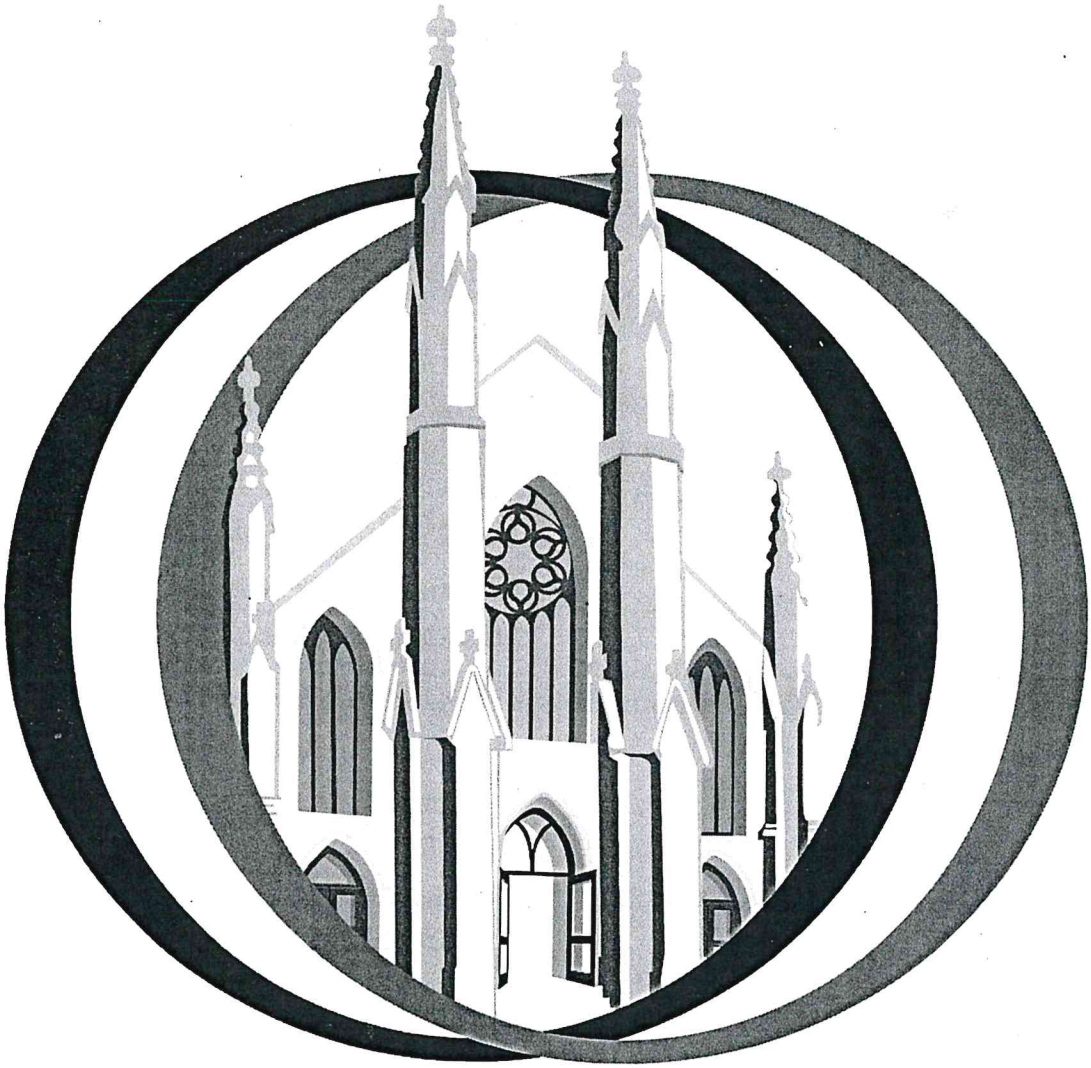


FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY BROOKLYN

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

WHOEVER YOU ARE

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 carried forward in our work and in our love

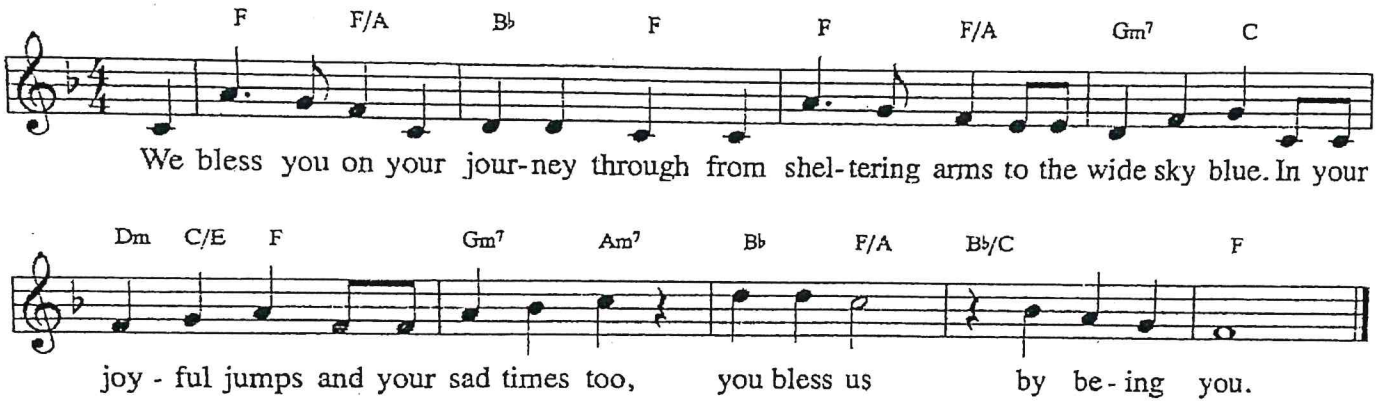
Blessed is the transient flame we kindle here;

Blessed is the illuminated moment of our gathering.

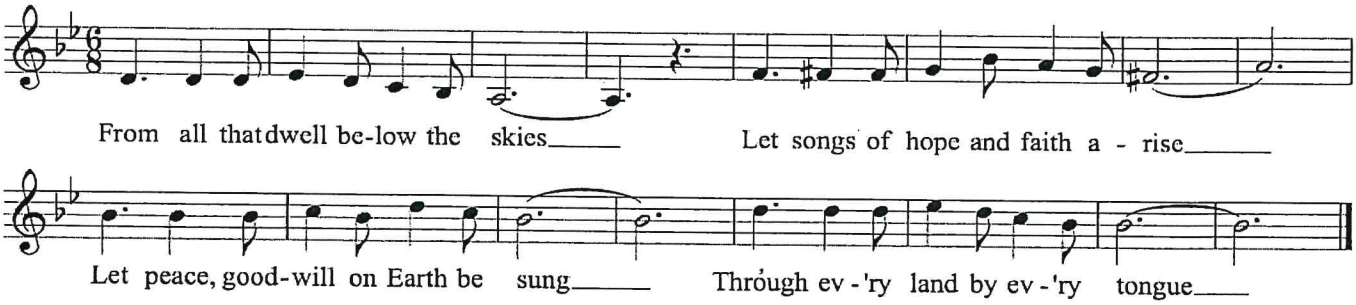
Blessed is the light of the eternal;

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

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL



SONG OF HOPE FOR JAZZ SUNDAY



March 15, 2026

Through Intentional Compromise and Cooperation

Welcome to First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, where we are exploring the themes of ***conflict*** and ***pluralism*** 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.

♪ **Our World is One World** (#134)

♪ **Whoever You Are** (inside cover)

Chalice Lighting (inside cover)

♪ **Song of Hope** (inside cover)

Testimonial

Deepening

Wisdom Story | *Treehouse Rules*

Children's Blessing & Recessional

Silent Meditation & Prayer

Candle Lighting

♪ ***There Are Numerous Strings*** by Rabindranath Tagore

Sermon

♪ **How Sweet the Darkness** (#1055)

Connecting

Offering

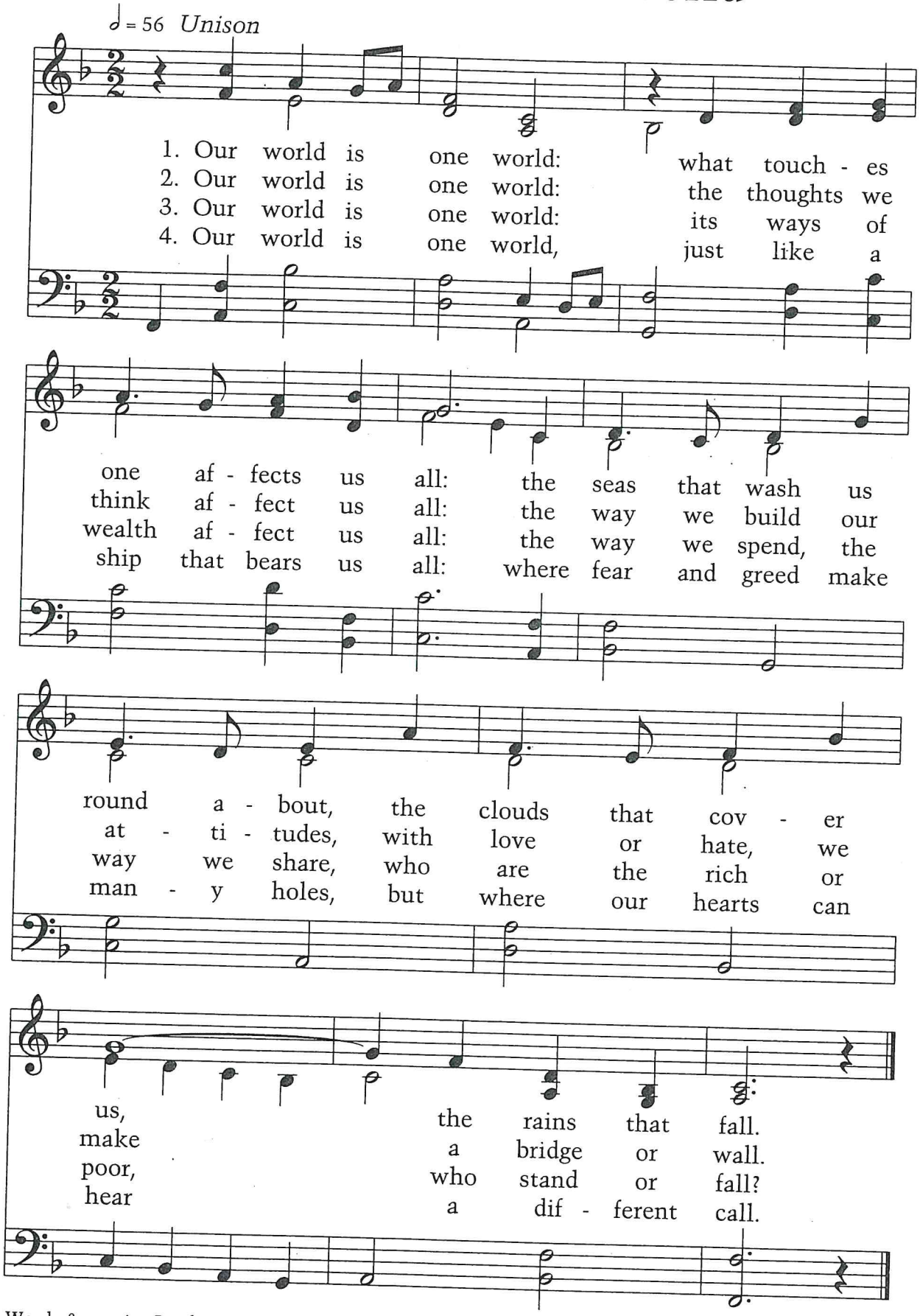
♪ ***One Voice*** by The Wailin' Jennys

Announcements

♪ **Lay Down My Sword and Shield** (#162)

Benediction

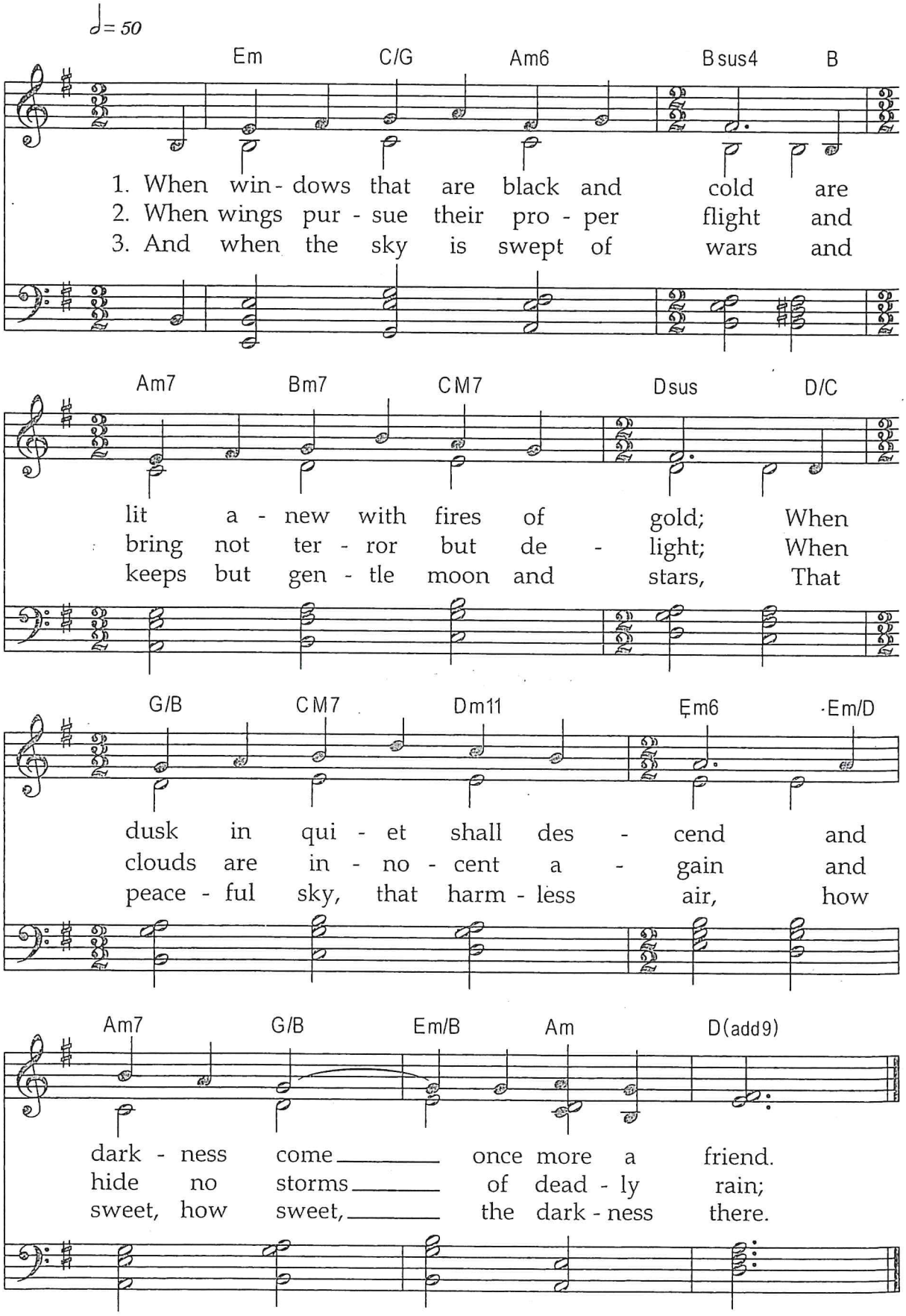
134 Our World Is One World



Words & music: Cecily Taylor, 1930– , © 1988 Stanier & Bell, Ltd., all rights reserved, used by perm. of Galaxy Music Corporation
Music arr. by Richard Graves, 1926– , © 1988 Stanier & Bell, Ltd.

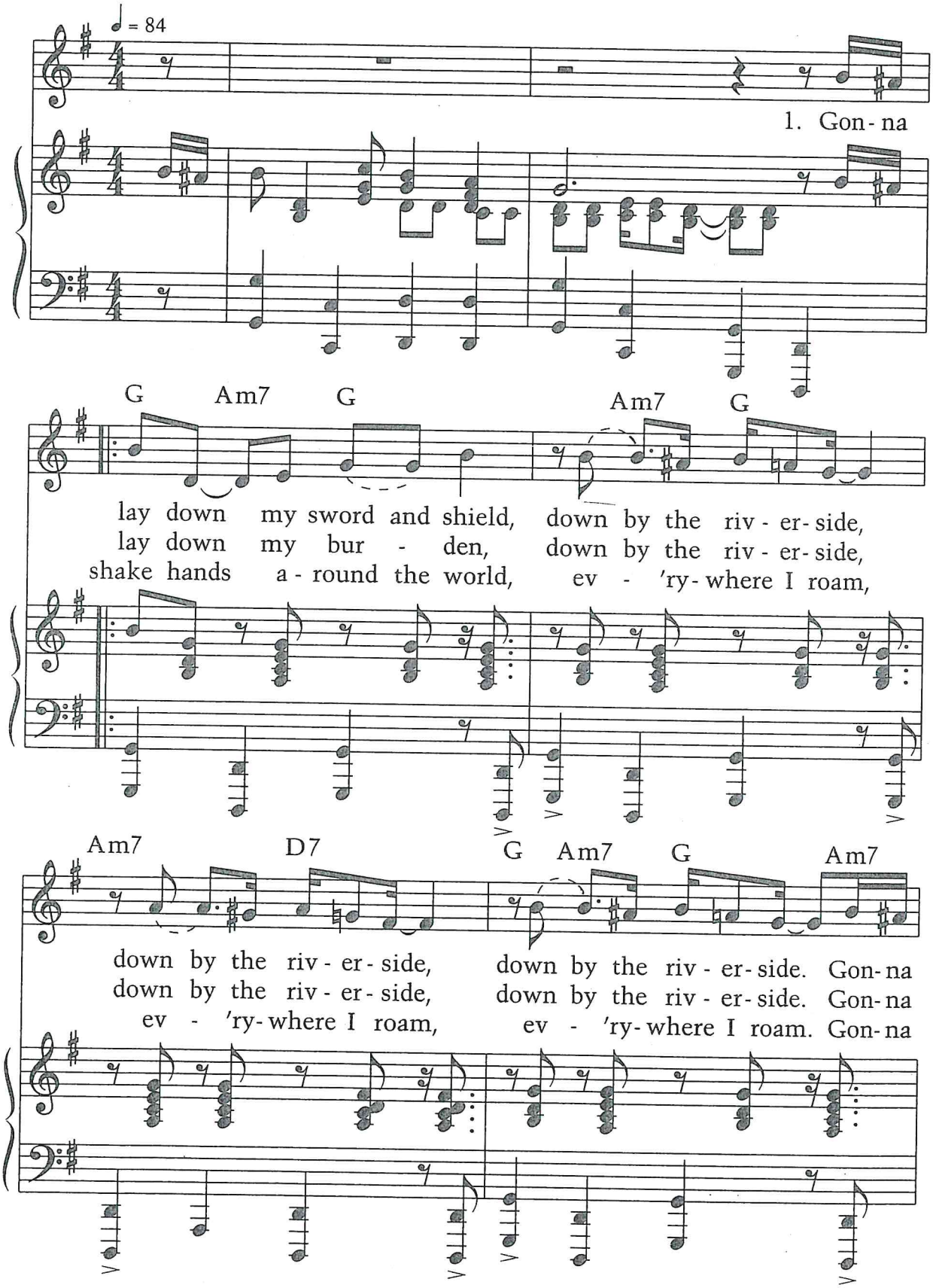
CHERNOBYL
58864

1055 How Sweet the Darkness

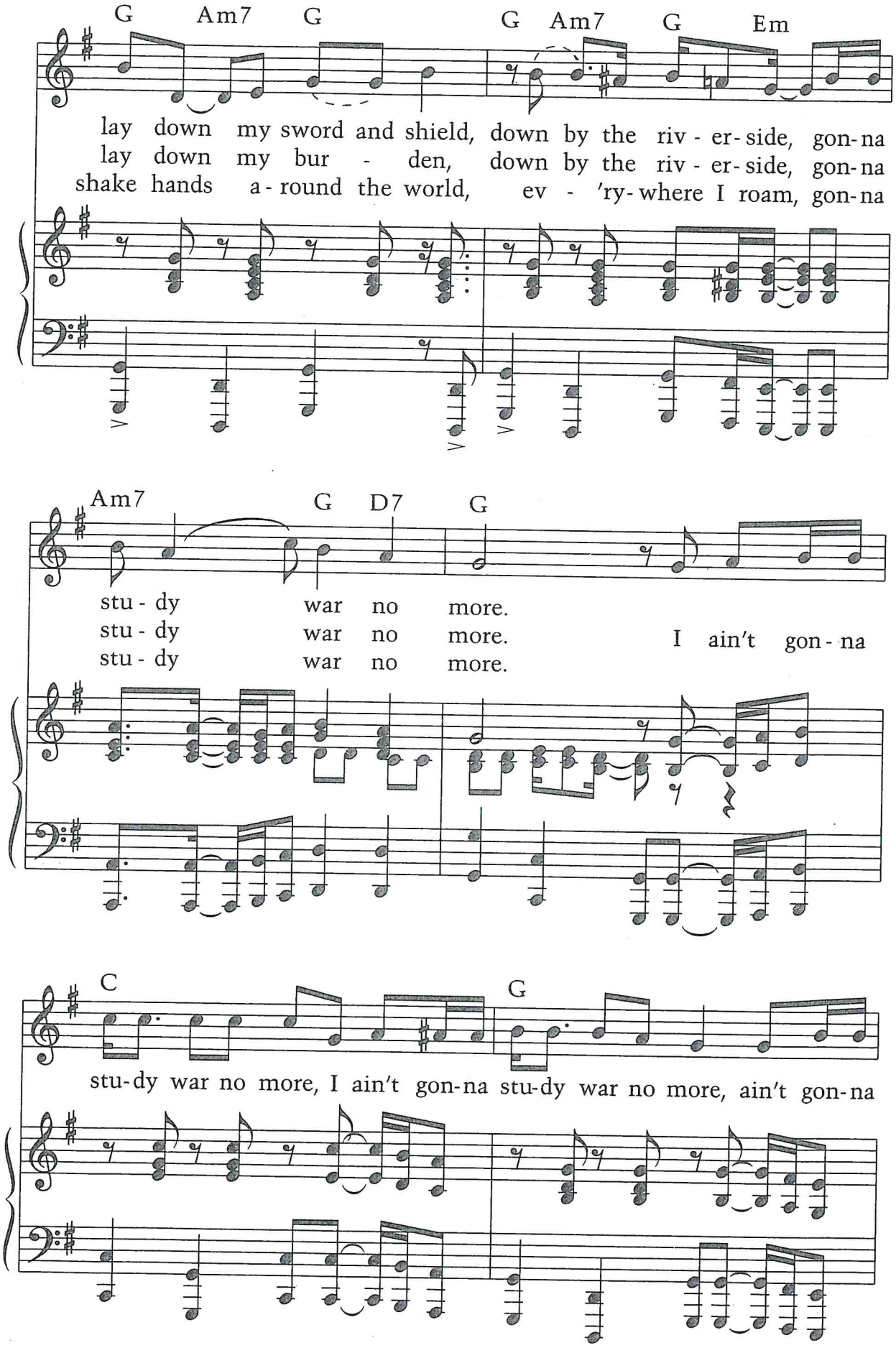


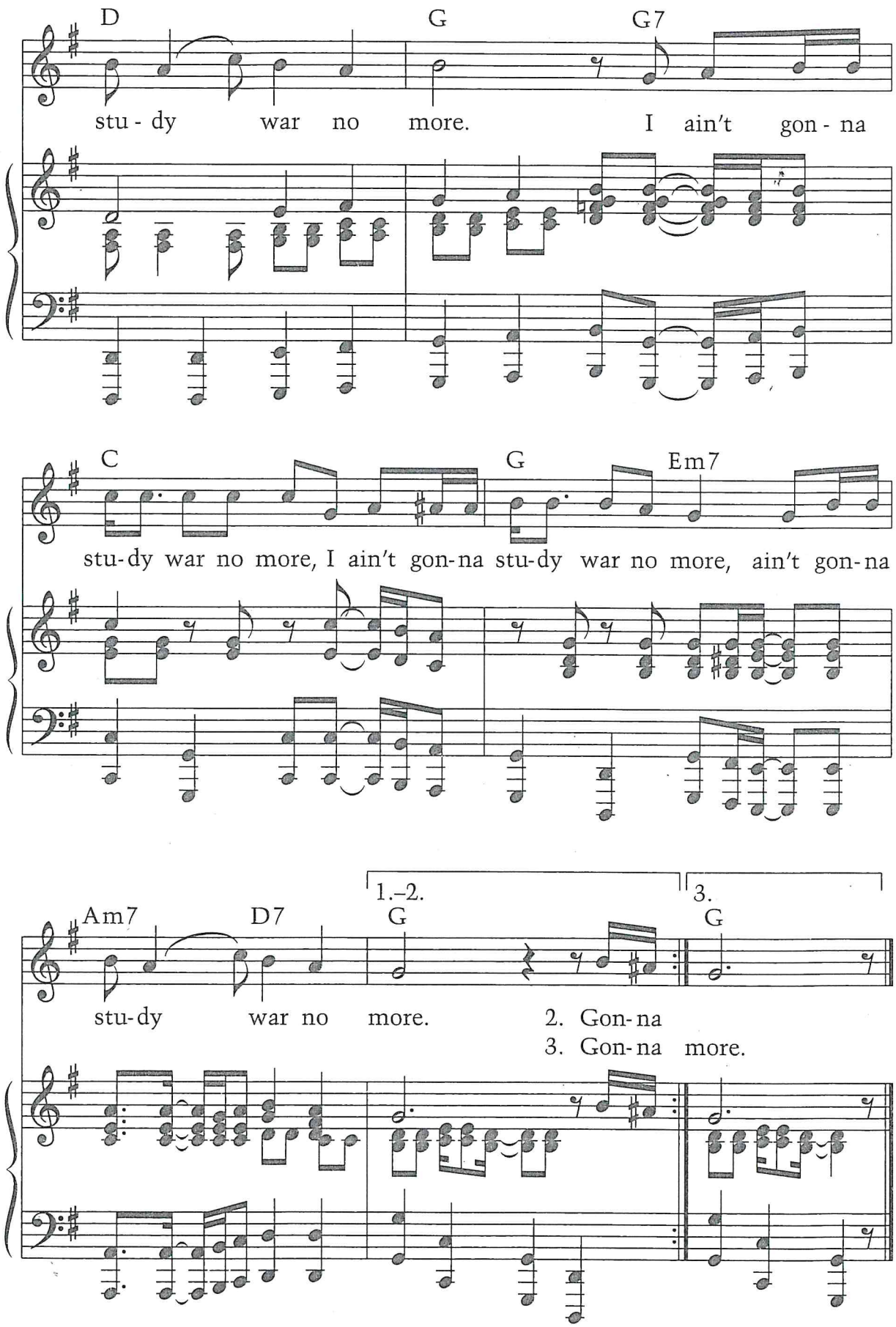
Words: Rachel Bates

Gonna Lay Down My Sword and Shield



Words and music: African American spiritual, c. 1750–1875


G Am7 G G Am7 G Em
lay down my sword and shield, down by the riv - er - side, gon - na
lay down my bur - den, down by the riv - er - side, gon - na
shake hands a - round the world, ev - 'ry - where I roam, gon - na
Am7 G D7 G
stu - dy war no more.
stu - dy war no more. I ain't gon - na
stu - dy war no more.
C G
stu - dy war no more, I ain't gon - na stu - dy war no more, ain't gon - na


D
G
G7
stu - dy war no more. I ain't gon - na
C
G
Em7
stu-dy war no more, I ain't gon-na stu-dy war no more, ain't gon-na
Am7
D7
1.–2.
G
3.
G
stu-dy war no more.
2. Gon-na
3. Gon-na more.

Purpose Statement: 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 – Adopted by the Congregation - May 17, 2015

Right Relations Covenant: We are mindful that, as individuals and members of this spiritual community, we are each accountable for our words, deeds, and behavior. Therefore, whenever we worship, work together, or relate to one another, we agree to follow the following behavior covenant. I will strive to:

- Respect and cherish diversities of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual and/or affectional orientation, identity/gender expression, age, ability, beliefs and ideas.
- Assume good intentions. Trust in and speak well of one another. Give the benefit of the doubt. Examine my own intentions.
- Foster an environment of compassion, generosity, fellowship, and creativity. Smile and be welcoming. Share in the responsibilities of congregational life. Actively support the congregation's activities, and pledge financial support.
- Express appreciation and gratitude for the rich variety of gifts and talents shared among us. Empower others.
- Speak the truth as I experience it with kindness, care, and respect.
- Make decisions democratically through agreed-upon processes. Promote fairness and decency. Speak out against injustice.
- Face others directly in agreement or disagreement. Act with respect and humility when I disagree with others.
- Be mindful that words and actions may cause unintended pain.
- Seek out understanding and wisdom in the presence of conflict. Resolve conflicts through intentional compromise and collaboration and, when necessary, request mediation. Understand that sometimes it is necessary to take "no" for an answer. Be forgiving.
- Practice self-care.
- Be open to hope.

- Adopted by the Congregation - March 7, 2009

Interim Minister Rev. Micah C. Ma
Wisdom Story Becky Huffman, Religious Education Coordinator
Music Director Adam Podd
Announcements Tyrone Davis, Jr., Membership Coordinator

Our Lay Worship Leader is Bob Bero
Our Lay Pastoral Minister is Michelle Kuchuk
Our Livestream Producer is Jay Lawrence
Our Online Host is Yvonne Garrett, Intern Minister
Our Connections Table Hosts are Caroline Ghigliotty & Charles Lynch

---

NOTES:

Mystical reading by author and activist Sarah Schulman

MUSIC NOTES:

Rabindranath Tagore was a Bengali polymath, poet, musician, and artist from the Indian subcontinent, and a prolific composer with around 2,230 songs to his name. He became the first Asian to win a Nobel Prize in any category, and also the first lyricist and non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Today in Religious Education:

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

The children will exit the Sanctuary during the Children's Recessional and proceed directly to the McKinney Chapel. Pick up is at 12:30 from the classroom.

Grades K-1: Love Surrounds Us, Eastman Room
Grades 2-3: Moral Tales, Green Room
Grades 4-5: OWL - 11:00-12:30, Frances White Room
Grades 6-7: *Building Bridges: Islam – First Lesson, Third Floor Teen Room
Grades 8-9: *Coming of Age – 11:00-12:30, Library
Grades 10-12: HS Youth Group – 12:30-1:30, Third Floor Teen Room

**** Building Bridges and Coming of Age subject to last minute changes***

Registration is Open and Ongoing! Use the QR code to register your child/children today! Children must be registered in order to participate in our programs

---

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.

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Today at First Unitarian:

- ***Poetry of Devotion and Doubt, Today, 12:30 - 2:00 PM, Frances White* Room**

We are on the brink of spring, a time of change. A time of leaving, a time of arriving. The spiritual path we take from doubt to devotion, from devotion to doubt, can be a lifelong process. Please join the First U poetry group as we move through this continuum. The Poetry of Doubt and Devotion group will be meeting Sunday, March 15 from 12:30-2 pm in the Frances White Room. Bring your open minds and thoughts as we explore poems from Anne and Branwell Bronte. Contact Beth Evans ***beth.evans.is@gmail.com***

- ***Young Adult Ministry, Today, 12:45 – 2:45, Library***

Looking Forward:

- ***Chalice Circle, Monday, March 16th, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, Zoom***

Join facilitator Yvonne Garrett, Intern Minister, for this second series exploring our shared Unitarian Universalist theology. We will follow a covenant group model, starting with a chalice lighting, check-in, opening reading or video, and discussion questions. Each member of the group will be given equal time to respond before moving to a more open discussion. We will practice listening deeply to each other as we explore the UU Values. Limited to 10 people. ***yvonne@firstubrooklyn.org.***

- ***Friday Night Open Mic! Friday, March 20th, 6:30 - 9:00 PM, McKinney Chapel***

Bring your favorite song, poem, story, monologue, or comedy routine to share. We'll have an accompanist for singers (or for background music for a spoken piece if you choose). Let's celebrate spring! Refreshments will be available. Future dates are: Apr 24, May 8, Jun 12. For more info or to rsvp, contact Wendy Russell (***wendy@firstubrooklyn.org***).

- ***Religious Naturalism Study Group, Sunday, March 22, 1:00 – 3:00 PM.***

All congregants and others who are or think they may be religious naturalists are invited. We will meet in the Library.

- ***The Hundred Years' War on Palestine Sunday, March 29th, 2:00 PM***

We invite you to an afternoon talk with Professor Rashid Khalidi, an esteemed scholar, author, and historian of the Middle East, the Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies Emeritus at Columbia University, and author of The Hundred Years' War on Palestine. He will discuss the region's history, the roots of the current crisis, and a path toward a sustainable future for Palestine. Also featuring Rev. Meagan Henry of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, who will discuss her experiences from her most recent trip to the West Bank. Ticket information: ***https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/the-hundred-years-war-on-palestine***

Stewardship Campaign: Lighting Our Fire

The Stewardship team is hosting a series of Kindling Gatherings throughout the month. These are intimate, small-group events designed to share food, drink, and stories about what makes this community warm. The only rule? No pledge forms allowed. These gatherings are strictly about building our collective fire, not immediately checking a box.

Use the QR Code to grab a spot in the next few days so our hosts can finalize their headcounts (and so you can attend the one that best suits you!)
If you already signed up in person, confirmations and details will be sent out to you by the end of this week.

Ministerial Search: Help Shape the Future of First U!

First U is officially beginning its search for our next Senior Minister. We are looking for dedicated members to form the Ministerial Search Committee. This is a rare, rewarding opportunity to have a significant long-lasting impact on the life of our congregation.

Commitment: This is a year-long commitment requiring steady work (August 2026 – May 2027). You can read more about what the search committee entails here: ***https://tinyurl.com/ff8p4wpx***

Nominate: If you would like to nominate another member of First U for consideration, please email ***NomCom2026@firstubrooklyn.org*** with their name and a short explanation of why you think they'd make a great committee member.

Questions?: Contact one of the members of the Special Nominating Committee listed below or send an email to ***NomCom2026@firstubrooklyn.org.***
Michael Alcoff ~ Octavia Findley ~ Patrick Gunn ~ Rita Pearl ~Rachel Stark

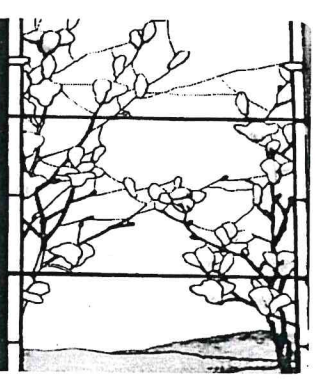
Apply: If you are interested in serving, please apply here:
https://tinyurl.com/mv3nkpjx. Or use the QR code.

Share the Plate March: The First U High School Youth Group

This collection fundraises for the youth group service trip to McDowell County, West Virginia, where they do construction work and other community services through Big Creek People in Action, in an attempt to help one of the most impoverished counties in the nation and to meet people from backgrounds that are incredibly different from their own.

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.

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

FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY BROOKLYN

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

CONGREGATION ORGANIZED IN 1833 **BUILDING DEDICATED IN 1844**

CLERGY & STAFF

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

Adam Podd, adam@firstubrooklyn.org
Director of Music

Wendy Russell, wendy@firstubrooklyn.org
Congregational Administrator & RE Assistant

Renee Strickland, renee@firstubrooklyn.org
Director of Facilities

John McKeown, john@firstubrooklyn.org
Building Engineer

Bobby Blackman, bobby@firstubrooklyn.org
Sexton

Tyrone Davis, Jr. tyrone@firstubrooklyn.org
Membership Coordinator

Becky Huffman, becky@firstubrooklyn.org
Interim RE Coordinator & RE Council Chair

Sean Sellers, sean@firstubrooklyn.org
Youth Coordinator

Yvonne Garrett, yvonne@firstubrooklyn.org
Intern Minister

OFFICERS

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

Trustees:
Vicki Antonini, Michele Ascione, Barbara Bornmann, 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*

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

EMAIL: info@firstubrooklyn.org

WEB: www.fuub.org

INSTAGRAM: FirstUBrooklyn

YOU TUBE: FirstUnitarianBrooklyn

FACEBOOK:
First Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn

GIVE BY TEXT (855) 799-2543