


 **Hymn No.3**
"We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table" (#407, Singing the Living Tradition)

Homily & Discussion

"Drops of Water Turn a Well: Community, Connection, Relationship, Reflection"
by Bonnie Friedmann

 **Hymn No.4**
"Lean on Me" (#1021, Singing the Journey)

Benediction

"Unitarian Universalism is faith in people, hope for tomorrow's child, confidence in a continuity that spans all time. It looks not to a perfect heaven, but toward a good earth. It is respectful of the past, but not limited to it. It is trust in growing and conspiracy with change. It is spiritual responsibility for a moral tomorrow."
—Ed Schempp

Extinguishing the Chalice

In unison: 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 are together again.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

September 6 – 14:00 Discussion Group, Hainerberg Chapel
September 20 – 14:00 Sunday Service, Hainerberg Chapel



Water Communion (Ingathering)



led by
Bonnie Friedmann

August 16th, 2015



"Religion is our human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die."
—Forrest Church

Prelude/Welcome



Hymn No.1

"Gathered Here" (#389, Singing the Living Tradition)

Opening Reading

"In this familiar place, listen: to the sounds of breathing, creaking chairs, shuffling feet, clearing throats, and sighing all around; Know that each breath, movement, the glance meant for you or intercepted holds a life within it. These are the signs that we choose to be in this company, have things to say to each other, things not yet said but in each other's presence, still trembling behind our hearts' locked doors, these doors closed but unlocked, each silent thing waiting, on the threshold between unknowing and knowing, between being hidden and being known. Find the silence among these people, and listen to it all – breathing, sighs, movement, holding back – hear the tears that have not yet reached their eyes, perhaps they are your own, hear also the laughter building deep where joy abides, despite everything. Listen: rejoice. And say Amen."

—Barbara Pescan ("Welcome: A Unitarian Universalist Primer")

Chalice Lighting

"Come into the circle of love and justice. Come into the community of mercy, holiness, and health. Come and you shall know peace and joy."

—Israel Zangwill ("Adapted")

Sharing of Joys and Concerns



Hymn No.2

" 'Tis A Gift to be Simple" (#16, Singing the Living Tradition)

Story for All Ages

"Free to Believe" (by Judith C. Campbell)

Go now in peace, go now in peace / May the spirit of love surround you / Everywhere, everywhere / You may go.

Second Reading (responsive)

"The Winds of Summer" (#729, Singing the Living Tradition)

You and I and all of us blew about with the winds of summer
Following the sun in different ways of freedom and play,
Finding rest in the cool stillness of shadows, and moving to the slow
heatstruck rhythms which turned the long hours of summer light.
Now it is time for gathering in. We come together at this time and in
this place on the bridge of autumn.

Summer is fading backward into memory, and winter waits in snowy
brilliance.

We meet with eagerness and delight, needing one another for sharing.

We have joys and sorrows and hopes to share, questions, things we
care about and want to help make better,

Things that we would like to understand, ideas waiting to be heard.

Today we are together in gladness, once more the special community
that we call our church,

A community of all ages that sings its songs, tells its thoughts, asks its
questions, and searches together with courage and love.

—Patricia Shuttee

Meditation

Where have we come from? What do we hope for as WUU's together?

Water Communion

All are invited to ladle water from the pot into the common vase.

(The core symbolism of the Water Communion is that we all come from water: as a species on a planet where life began in the ocean, as mammals who float in amniotic fluid as we are readied for birth, as beings whose cells are mostly water. And yet we are separate from each other, and we have been apart – since there tends to be a slowing-down, a different rhythm in the summer months, even in churches that have services and religious education right on through the summer. And now we are reuniting. We are separate and together, the way water scatters into rain and streams and cloud.)