

Meditation

Guest Speaker

"Dragged Kicking and Screaming into Heaven"

by Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed



Third Hymn

"Standing on the Side of Love" (#1014, Singing the Journey)

Benediction

"Out beyond ideas of right-doing and wrong-doing there is a luminous field. I'll meet you there."

—Rumi

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

Coffee Hour & Discussion of the Guest Speaker's Talk



"Dragged Kicking and Screaming into Heaven"



Guest Speaker Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed
Led by Emily Searle-White



May 15th, 2016



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Love is the doctrine of this church.
The quest for truth is its sacrament.
And service is its prayer.

Prelude

"Heaven" (David Byrne and Jerry Harrison, performed by Michael & Teresa Zink)

Welcome

Chalice Lighting

"Blessed is the fire that burns deep in the soul. It is the flame of the human spirit touched into being by the mystery of life. It is the fire of reason; the fire of compassion; the fire of community; the fire of justice; the fire of faith. It is the fire of love burning deep in the human heart; the divine glow in every life."

—Eric A. Heller-Wagner



First Hymn

"We Give Thanks" (#1010, Singing the Journey)

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Story for All Ages

"How Jeff Campbell Became a Universalist." (as told by Jeff Campbell)

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

Offertory

First Reading

"When I was a child, I would stand and gaze at the starry firmament and contemplate infinity. As I stood there, the boundary that is time dissolved; I expanded my Spirit to fill the boundary that is space. My being stilled and all fear, anxiety, and anguish disappeared. Forgotten were the chores, the homework, the ordinary around me.

Transcending boundaries was fun in those days. But, as I reached adulthood, it became more difficult. More and more, the world was with me as I did chores and homework. More and more, my own fears were with me as I encountered others. More and more, I was aware of the boundaries of race, class, age, and sex. I felt myself cringe as the bantering youth in the street came nearer. I felt myself become tearful as I encountered a senior citizen living with pain or the

limited choices of a fixed income. I felt myself become angry as I was subjected to the indignities of being rejected by others because I am Black, because I am a woman, or because of the blind person or the openly gay person I was with. I felt myself become unwilling to acknowledge my oneness with the addicted person who is my friend or the homeless person sleeping on the benches in the park.

Today, transcending boundaries is hard work. For one thing, I've created more of them since I was young, and I've built them higher and stronger than they once were. For another thing, I'm much more self-righteous and much less humble than I was then. Sometimes, when I am at my best, I remember that the "other" I distinguish myself from could be me in another time, another place, another circumstance. Then, I remember the words of a colleague who observed that it is "my racism, my sexism, my homophobia" that I am called upon to address. So, I take a few deep breaths and begin to release the fears that are the boundaries between me and my fellow humans."

—Yvonne Seon



Second Hymn

"How Could Anyone" (#1053, Singing the Journey)

Second Reading

"For those who pray and those who don't,

For those who believe there is some ultimate power that listens and can affect the world, And, for those who believe that it is only through the power and love of our own hearts that we make a difference,

We pray to ourselves, to each other, to God, Goddess, Spirit, the Great Mystery of the Universe that is beyond our understanding as well as our naming,

Within each of our hearts is a yearning, a yearning for something better for ourselves, for each other, for the world.

That is our prayer.

Beyond the personal prayers of our hearts, we share the collective prayers of humanity, prayers for love and justice, mercy and solace, respect, compassion, and peace. Universal prayers manifest in the values we cherish.

Prayer is the seed, the guide, the vision, the direction. But our hands work to build a better world and our feet must walk the paths that lead to a universal, loving, respectful human community.

Let us pray, and then, let us begin the work, once again."

—Susan Manker-Seale