

*The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough*  
*September 13, 2020*

*Ingathering*

Prelude *Rain on the Pond* by Wayne Gratz

Welcome and Announcements Sarah Person

Invocation

Reader: Source of our strength and life  
we gather once again in this beloved community:  
apart in fact but not in spirit,  
of many hearts and one heart.  
We gather to be nourished and sustained  
by all that is grounded and real in this place  
we have created out of love.

Congregation: ***We gather for joy:***

Reader: for the blessings bestowed upon us,  
for the gifts of new life and new hopes.

Congregation: ***We gather for healing:***

Reader: for the lives we have lost,  
for our own frailties, and  
for the frailties of those we love,  
for the doubts that follow us  
in these troubled times.

Congregation: ***We gather for renewal:***

Reader: for the life that enriches us,  
for the miracles and memories that grace us.

Congregation: ***We gather for companionship:***

Reader: for the capacity to give and receive  
the best truth that we have to share.

Congregation: ***We gather for truth:***

Reader: Let us be unafraid of honesty.  
We are a people who bend toward truth,  
and find our way in love to it.

**Congregation:** ***We gather for purpose:***

**Reader:** to know that every deed we do  
in the name of justice and love  
will be magnified a hundredfold in this community  
and a thousand-fold in the world around us.

**Congregation:** ***We gather for hope:***

**Reader:** that in spite of our despair --  
with so much animosity in our society --  
our gathering here will make a difference  
in a world that needs our care and conscience.

**All:** ***May it be so, Amen.***

**Chalice Lighting** *(Everyone can light their candles at home.)*

*(In unison)* ***We light this chalice  
for the Spirit of Life in our midst  
that sustains and transforms us  
every moment of our journey.***

**Hymn** *Gather the Spirit (See page 4)*

**Message for All Ages**

*Tiny the God*

**Kelly Lownds**  
by Becky Brooks

**The Unitarian Universalist Tradition of the Water Communion**

**Blessing:** *(In unison)*

***Bless this communion of waters,  
gathered from distances great and small.  
Blessed be the hands that poured,  
blessed be the hearts that shared,  
blessed be our journeys through this life.  
May we consecrate the ground of our garden  
of loved ones,  
and may we ever be a blessing to the wider world.***

**Reflection**

*A Long, Hot Summer*

**Rev. Sarah Person**

**About Offering**

**Hymn**

*Simple Faith (See page 5)*

**Unison Benediction**

***Go out into the world in peace.  
Have courage.  
Hold on to what is good.  
Return to no person evil for evil.  
Strengthen the fainthearted.  
Support the weak.  
Help the suffering.  
Honor all beings.***

**Sung Benediction**

*Go Lifted Up*      Words & Music by Mortimer Barron  
***Go lifted up,  
Love bless your way,  
moonlight, starlight guide your journey into peace  
and the brightness of day.***

**Organ Postlude**

*The Opening Year*

by Lani Smith

## **Gather the Spirit**

Words & Music: Jim Scott

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.

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.

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 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.

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

## Simple Faith

Words & Music: David Tamulevich

Ours is a simple faith  
Life is a short embrace  
Heaven is in this place  
Ev'ry day  
Hope is the ground we till  
make each day what you will  
Thankful for dreams fulfilled  
Ev'ry day

No room in this heart for fear  
No judgment day drawing near  
Trust that inner voice you hear  
Ev'ry day  
Life's not a goal or race  
It's about heart and faith  
and living a life of grace  
Ev'ry day

Trust is an open hand  
Making an honest stand  
Rooted here in the land  
Ev'ry day  
Live in the mystery  
Seeking the harmony  
here between you and me  
Ev'ry day