

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough

May 15, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Organ Prelude *Invention #1* by J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Dan Hotchkiss**

Call to Worship by Paul Carnes

Hymn #347 *Gather the Spirit (See page 4)*

Chalice Lighting by Maryell Cleary

Chalice Lighting Response *May We Shine a Light of Love* by Joyce Poley

*May we shine a light of love,
May we shine a light of love,
With ev'ry thought, With ev'ry step we take
May we shine a light of love.*

Musical Offering **Chalice Ensemble**

Grace Before Sleep
by Susan LaBarr, poem by Sara Teasdale

Message for All Ages **Rev. Dan Hotchkiss and Kelly Lownds**
Parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37

(Joys and Concerns will be shared at the start of our time of fellowship.)

Prayer by David Rosenberg

Hymn #86 *Blessed Spirit of My Life (See page 5)*

Reading from *Guiding Principles for a Free Faith*
by James Luther Adams: the fourth of his *Five Smooth Stones of Liberalism*

Sermon *The Good Enough Samaritan* **Rev. Dan Hotchkiss**

Offertory *Rain on the Pond* by Wayne Gratz

Closing Words

Hymn #311 *Let It Be a Dance* (See page 6)

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 #1057 *Go Lifted Up* by Mortimer Barron
*Go lifted up,
Love bless your way,
moonlight, starlight guide your journey into peace
and the brightness of day.*

Extinguishing the Chalice (in unison) by Brian Kiely
*The Chalice is extinguished,
but its light lives on in the minds
and the hearts and the souls of each one of us.
Let us carry the flame with us and
share it with those we know,
with those we love, and most
especially, with those we have yet to meet.*

Postlude *Wake, Now, My Senses*
8th C. Irish tune, arr. Clif Hardin

This morning we welcome Rev. Dan Hotchkiss to the pulpit. Dan is a UU minister and author of Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership. Over the last 20 years, Dan has consulted with Christian, Jewish, and Islamic leaders in more than 33 faith traditions on planning, leadership, and board governance. Previously, Dan managed ministerial placement for the UUA and served parishes in New Haven and Boca Raton. He is active in the First UU Church of Middleboro, where his wife Susan serves as music director.

Music Notes

Kudos to our twelve singers today from the Chalice Choir: Dody Adkins-Perry, Katie Allen, Holly Begley, Jim Bonnar, Joan Breen, Sue Curtiss, Kimberly French, Dan Hotchkiss, Mal Marvill, Marc MacQueen, John Mullen, and Nicola Wilbar. The Musical Offering is a harmonically complex setting of a poem.

Grace Before Sleep

Sara Teasdale

How can our minds and bodies be
Grateful enough that we have spent
Here in this generous room, we three,
This evening of content?
Each one of us has walked through storm
And fled the wolves along the road;
But here the hearth is wide and warm,
And for this shelter and this light
Accept, O Lord, our thanks tonight.

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.

Chorus:

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.

Chorus

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.

Chorus

Blessed Spirit of My Life

Words & music: Shelley Jackson Denham

Blessed Spirit of my life, give me strength through stress and strife;
help me live with dignity; let me know serenity.

Fill me with a vision, clear my mind of fear and confusion.

When my thoughts flow restlessly, let peace find a home in me.

Spirit of great mystery, hear the still, small voice in me.

Help me live my wordless creed as I comfort those in need.

Fill me with compassion, be the source of my intuition.

Then, when life is done for me, let love be my legacy.

Let It Be a Dance

Words & music: Ric Masten; arr. by Betty A. Wylder

Chorus:

Let it be a dance we do.
May I have this dance with you?
Through the good times and the bad times, too,
let it be a dance.

Let a dancing song be heard.
Play the music, say the words,
and fill the sky with sailing birds.
Let it be a dance.
Let it be a dance. Let it be a dance.
Learn to follow, learn to lead,
feel the rhythm, fill the need
to reap the harvest, plant the seed.
Let it be a dance.

Chorus

Everybody turn and spin,
let your body learn to bend,
and, like a willow with the wind,
let it be a dance.
Let it be a dance. Let it be a dance.
A child is born, the old must die;
a time for joy, a time to cry.
Take it as it passes by.
Let it be a dance.

Chorus

Morning star comes out at night,
without the dark there is no light.
If nothing's wrong, then nothing's right.
Let it be a dance.
Let it be a dance. Let it be a dance.
Let the sun shine, let it rain;
share the laughter, bear the pain,
and round and round we go again.
Let it be a dance.