

*The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough*  
*March 19, 2023* *10:30 a.m.*

**Chimes**

**Sebastian Glaspey**

**Organ Prelude**

*Festival Voluntary*

*Cutler & Johnson's American Church Voluntaries (1856), ed. Barbara Owen*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Tony Soares**

**Testimonial**

**Nicole Sykes**

**Hymn\***

#301 *Touch the Earth, Reach the Sky!*

**Call to Worship**

#444 *This House*

**Chalice Lighting**

**Eamon Gunn**

**Chalice Lighting Response**

*May We Shine a Light of Love (See last page)*

**Musical Offering**

*Bridge Over Troubled Water*

**Nicola Wilbar**

by Paul Simon

**Message for all Ages**

*Questions, Questions*

**Kelly Lownds**

by Marcus Pfister

**Children's Call to R.E. Classes**

*Children's Blessing*

by Jason Shelton

***May your mind be open to new learning.***

***May your lips bring truth into the world.***

***May your heart know love,***

***and your hands do the work of justice,***

***as you go your way in peace,***

***as you go your way in peace.***

*(Children leave at this time.)*

## Time of Meditation and Prayer

Prayer

Silence

Hymn\* #298 *Wake, Now, My Senses*

## Responsive Reading

#566 *God Is One*

Sermon

*The Question Box Sermon*

**Rev. Peter Connolly**

## Offertory

*Morning Meditation* by Jeffrey David Hooven

*The Cash in the Plate for the month of March is going to New Life Furniture Bank of MA, a volunteer-led nonprofit 501(c)(3) that accepts furniture and household items and makes them available at no cost to those in need. They also welcome monetary donations which allow them to purchase needed items to individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness.*

Hymn\* #1020 *Woyaya*

Closing Words #655 *Change Alone Is Unchanging*

Sung Benediction *Go Lifted Up (See last page)*

Postlude

*Nimble Feet from Dances in the Canebrakes*

by Florence B. Price

## Joys and Concerns

## 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.***

\* Please stand as you are able.

*Thank you to all who helped with today's service:*

<i>Greeters:</i>	<i>Nancy Backus &amp; Tony Soares</i>
<i>Worship Associate:</i>	<i>Tony Soares</i>
<i>Coffee Hour Host:</i>	<i>Stephen Larrett &amp; Tony Soares</i>
<i>Stream Team:</i>	<i>Jeff Giddings</i>
<i>Audio:</i>	<i>Stephen Larrett</i>

### *Music Notes*

*Kudos to Nicola Wilbar for singing "Bridge Over Troubled Water" for today's musical offering. In tribute to Women's History Month, the postlude today was composed by the first African American female to have her work performed by leading orchestras, Florence B. Price (1887-1953). During her career, Price wrote over 300 compositions, including symphonies, concertos, chamber works, art songs, and settings of spirituals for voice and piano.*

### *Office Hours*

*Rev. Peter Connolly's office hours are Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Rev. Connolly will not be available on the second Wednesday of the month as he will be attending the UUMA cluster meeting. He is available by appointment. Monday is the minister's day off. He will respond to emails and messages beginning on Tuesday of the week.*

**Church Website Address:**  
[www.uumiddleboro.org](http://www.uumiddleboro.org)

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

### **Nursery Care**

Nursery care is available during the church service each week, courtesy of Niko Pucillo-Dunphy.

### **RE Children's Classes**

The youth come relatively regularly and enjoy a time of sharing one another's favorite play time and then lighting the chalice, sharing joys and concerns and then working through the curriculum.

In RE we had a change of plans last week when we discussed the messiah in each of us, so this week we will continue our lesson from *Mullah Nasruddin Feeds His Coat*. We will also play the welcome and unwelcome game and share a Middle Eastern Feast consisting of lentils, bread, hummus, figs and baklava. New children are always welcome!

### **RE Committee**

Please let Kelly Lownds or Christine Hoyle know if you are interested in joining the RE Committee for planning and conversation.

*Kelly Lownds*, Director of Religious Exploration  
([dre@uumiddleboro.org](mailto:dre@uumiddleboro.org))

## CHALICE LIGHTING RESPONSE:

*May We Shine a Light of Love*

Words & Music 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.

## CALLS TO MEDITATION AND PRAYER:

*Spirit of Life* (#123, gray hymnal)

Words & Music by Carolyn McDade

Spirit of life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

*Quiet Center*

by Shirley E. Murray/*Beach Spring*

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead.  
Find the room for hope to enter;  
find the frame where we are freed.  
Clear the chaos and the clutter;  
clear our eyes that we can see  
All the things that really matter, be at peace and  
simply be.

## SUNG BENEDICTIONS:

*Go Lifted Up* (#1057 teal hymnal)

Words & Music by Mortimer Barron

Go lifted up, Love bless your way,  
moonlight, starlight guide your journey into peace  
and the brightness of day.

*Go Your Way in Peace* (sing twice)

by Jim Scott, adapted from *Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, K 622*  
Go your way in peace, Wander as you may,  
Blessed is the path you take: May love guide you on your way.