

Order of Service: February 27th, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.
“A Bigger Boat: Reflections on Faith from a Unitarian Perspective”
Unitarian Universalist Worship Service at Emmanuel College

Notice to be circulated ahead of time to the Emmanuel Community:
Arising from centuries-old Christian roots, Unitarian Universalism now draws from a wide spectrum of wisdom sources including humanism, world religions and the direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder. It's an embracing and evolving faith tradition with many built-in blessings and challenges. Rev. Lynn Harrison (First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto) and Emmanuel College UU students present an inclusive Unitarian service reflecting on the engagement of difference in spiritual community today.

Set up

Congregation facing the north, with screen set up in the corner. Round table from the student lounge to be set up in the centre. Piano on the side where the screen is so that songs can be led below the screen where the words will be (note this is different from the drawing). The smaller lecturn will be used placed on the north east side, near the piano. A chair and music stand will be placed there as well for Lynn.

Pat to supply bowl and salt or sand for candles/chalice lighting. She will also bring a cover for the table. (We do have fabrics, just in case). We have a taper for lighting and matches. We will need a candle for the territorial acknowledge as well as the chalice.

We will make sure that Christian symbols and artifacts are put into the vestry. The red wall hanging, the tree, and an amnesty hanging will all be suitable.

PRELUDE (TBD music during arrivals)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Becca to welcome folks and invite community announcements. She will then introduce Terri and Pat, and any others. Becca to introduce Lynn.

Lynn to give introduction to service, brief history of Unitarian Universalism, what to expect during the service.

Pat Let us center ourselves with a moment of silence and preparation.

Silence

Territorial Acknowledgement: Pat

We gather on this land in community as people have done for over 15,000 years. Among their names are the Huron-Wendat, the Petun, the Seneca, and the Mississauga. They have and continue to live in relationship with the waters, with our fellow creatures, with the fruits of the earth.

A candle is lit.

May we walk gently upon Turtle Island as we journey with all our relations towards justice, compassion, healing, and care.

WORDS OF WELCOME (Lynn)

Lynn continues with a few introductory words to lead into chalice lighting.

CHALICE LIGHTING (Pat, with Terri lighting)

Leader: As we light our chalice:

**Congregation: May its flame kindle within us
the warmth of compassion
the glow of love
the fire of commitment
and the light of truth.**

Leader: Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing...

HYMN #126 “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Words:v.1, Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, adapt.,
vs. 2-3, Eugene B. Navias, 1928-

Music: John Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813

Led by Matt

Come, thou fount of ev’ry blessing, tune our ears to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of life’s perfection fills our hearts with joy and love,
teach us ever to be faithful, may we still thy goodness prove.

Come, thou fount of ev’ry vision, lift our eyes to what may come.
See the lion and the young lamb dwell together in thy home.
Hear the cries of war fall silent, feel our love glow like the sun.
When we all serve one another, then our heaven is begun.

Come, thou fount of inspiration, turn our lives to higher ways.
Lift our gloom and desperation, show the promise of this day.
Help us bind ourselves in union, help our hands tell of our love.
With thine aid, O fount of justice, earth be fair as heav’n above.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Terri and Pat)
“From the Fragmented World” Phillip Hewett

- Pat: From the fragmented world
of our everyday lives
we gather
in search of wholeness.
- Terri: By many cares and preoccupations,
by diverse and selfish aims are we
separated from one another
and divided within ourselves.
- Pat: Yet we know that no branch
is utterly severed from the Tree of Life
that sustains us all.
- Terri: We cherish our oneness with
those around us and the
countless generations
that have gone before us.
- Pat: We would hold fast
to all of good we inherit
even as we would leave behind us
the outworn and false.
- Terri: We would escape from bondage
to the ideas of our own day
and the delusions of our own fancy.
- Pat: Let us labour in hope
for the dawning of a new day
without hatred, violence,
and injustice.

Terri: Let us nurture the growth
in our own lives
of the love that has shone
in the lives of the greatest
of [people], the rays of whose lamps
still illumine our way.

Together: In this spirit we gather.
In this spirit we pray.

MUSICAL OFFERING – “Everybody Looks Like Somebody I Know”
Lynn Harrison

MEDITATION Pat

We come now to a time in our service for meditation, reflection or prayer.

We will begin with a reading, followed by a time of silence, and then an opportunity for you to come forward to light a candle of joy or concern if you wish.

Our meditation reading today is by Jay E Abernathy, Jr. ...

Reading: Pat

We affirm that love is our greatest purpose.
Accepting one another is the truest form of faithful living.
The search for truth is our constant star.
We pledge our hearts, minds, and hands:
To challenge injustice with courage;
To find hope in times of fear;
And to live out our Unitarian Universalist values every day as a beloved community.
Thus do we covenant with each other and with all that is sacred in life.

Silence

Pat moves to the candle-lighting area and begins by lighting a candle.

Music to accompany candlelighting: Tom Reynolds

Terri will stand with candles for people as they move forward to light.

CANDLELIGHTING RITUAL

Lynn moves forward as the last people are settling in for Joys and Sorrows

JOYS & SORROWS (*Lynn leads time of spoken community prayer*)

SONG OF RESPONSE VU 381 “Spirit of Life”

Matt to lead

RESPONSIVE READING – Terri

Terri: Unitarian Universalists worship no particular God, teach no one creation story, share no one belief about life after death. Instead, we affirm and promote seven principles in covenant with each other and with all Unitarian Universalists.

Terri: Our first principle is that every person has inherent worth and dignity.

Response: We believe that everyone can do good in and for the world. We can offer love, work for justice, heal injuries, and bring joy to ourselves and others.

Terri: According to our second principle, we pursue justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Response: Compassion is more than individual kindness: it is a way of being. We work with one another to achieve a justice that brings equity and compassion to all.

Terri: By our third principle, we accept one another and encourage spiritual growth in our congregations.

Response: We can grow toward more spacious souls that accept complexity and diversity and maintain integrity. We embrace the glorious enigmas of existence.

Terri: Our fourth principle is that we promote the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Response: We have the privilege of freedom and of lives that are more than mere survival. We look beyond the self toward greater truths and meaning.

Terri: By our fifth principle, we affirm the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

Response: We trust each other to develop our consciences and commit to develop our own. We understand that each person we see has just as worthy a voice as our own.

Terri: As our sixth principle, we hold the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Response: We live in the belief that a better world is possible. We seek peace by peaceful means, liberty by liberatory means, and justice by just means.

Terri: Our seventh principle calls us to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Response: The earth and all life sustain us and depend on us. We give this web many names: ground of all being, the spirit of life, the creative force, the holy, or just the deep joy of life. Just to be is a blessing.

(“...please rise in body or spirit to join in singing...”)

HYMN: VU 372 “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”
Matt to lead

SERMON “A Bigger Boat” - Rev. Lynn Harrison

HYMN: “Blue Boat Home” Peter Mayer
(#1064 Singing the Journey, Matt to accompany, or Matt/Becca/Lynn to song lead with Tom accomapnying tune: Hyfrydol)

Though below me, I feel no motion
Standing on these mountains and plains
Far away from the rolling ocean
Still my dry land heart can say
I've been sailing all my life now
Never harbor or port have I known
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the earth is my blue boat home

Sun, my sail, and moon my rudder
As I ply the starry sea
Leaning over the edge in wonder
Casting questions into the deep
Drifting here with my ship's companions
All we kindred pilgrim souls
Making our way by the lights of the heavens
In our beautiful blue boat home

I give thanks to the waves upholding me
Hail the great winds urging me on
Greet the infinite sea before me
Sing the sky my sailor's song
I was born upon the fathoms
Never harbor or port have I known
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the earth is my blue boat home

CLOSING REFLECTIONS – Terri and/or Pat

*Information about UU congregations around the city & community
ministry The Bridge. (2)*

CLOSING HYMN: #86 “Blessed Spirit of My Life” Shelley 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.

BENEDICTION (Lynn)

POSTLUDE (Music TBA)