

*The earth laughs in flowers.*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson\*

## GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

- ◆ Ringing the Tibetan Bowl
- ◆ Call to Community  
*A Place of Belonging and Caring*  
by Kimberlee Anne Tomczak\*
- ◆ Candles of Community/Prelude  
*One More Step*  
by Joyce Poley
- ◆ Chalice Lighting  
*Like the First Hint of Green*  
Jennnifer McGlothlin\*
- ◆ Spoken Affirmation  
*Love is the spirit of this church . . . and service is its law.*  
*This is our great covenant . . . to dwell together in peace,*  
*To seek the truth in freedom . . . and to help one another.*

## EXPANDING OUR UNDERSTANDINGS

- ◆ Opening Thought  
*A Plain and Simple Beauty*  
from *A Lamp in Every Corner*  
by Janeen K. Grohsmeyer
- ◆ Gathering our Flowers  
*A video collage of flowers and music*

## EMBRACING OUR LIMITATIONS

- ◆ Reading  
from *Flower Communion*  
by Andrea Abbott\*
- ◆ Song - 63  
*Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers*  
words: Piae Cantiones | music: Thomas Benjamin\*  
performed by UU San Louis Obispo, CA choir

- ◆ Reading  
Continued from *Flower Communion*  
by Andrea Abbott\*
- ◆ Song - 123  
*Spirit of Life*  
By Carolyn McDade\*  
performed by Jen Nicolosi
- ◆ Reading  
Continued from *Flower Communion*  
by Andrea Abbott\*

## CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

- ◆ Giving  
*A Greater Good for Ourselves and our World*  
by Kayla Parker\*  
*Those who wish may bring their gifts to the table.*
- ◆ Reading  
Continued from *Flower Communion*  
by Andrea Abbott\*
- ◆ Blessing of the Flowers  
*The Communion Prayer*  
by Norbert Fabian Čapek \*
- ◆ Song - 78  
Color and Fragrance  
by Norbert Fabian Čapek \*
- ◆ Closing Thought  
*We Are One, We Are Free, We Are Here!*  
by Suzelle Lynch\*
- ◆ Extinguishing the Chalice  
*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*
- ◆ Taking a Flower as you Depart

## ◆ Postlude

*Tis a Gift to be Simple*

words: Joseph Bracket | music: American Shaker Tune  
performed by Muriel Anderson

## PROGRAM NOTES

One hundred years ago, in June 1923, the first flower ceremony was held in Prague at the Czech Unitarian church. The ritual was written by Norberk Čapek and today the flower ceremony is celebrated by Unitarian Universalist worldwide. The worship team created this year's ceremony focusing on the history and significance of this most cherished UU tradition.

The Spring Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, May 21, following the morning assembly. All members will receive the Packet of Documents tomorrow, March 8<sup>th</sup> via email. While only members may vote, all are encouraged to stay for the meeting. Congregational polity is at the forefront of our Unitarian Universalist heritage, and all may The Packet will also be available on the church mobile app and website.

Tuesday's Events: Chair Yoga - 10 am | Spiritual Self Help Group/Book Club – 6:30 pm. Both events welcome newcomers.

## Making It Happen This Morning:

- ◆ Board rep:
- ◆ Greeting us at the door: *Susie Norris*
- ◆ Ask me host: *Doug Strong*
- ◆ Leading today: *The Worship Team plus friends*
- ◆ Keyboardist: *Dan Althoff*
- ◆ Av crew: *Carole Harner, Don Rogers, Jim Holmes, Marla Loturco*
- ◆ Sunday school leader: *David Dyer*
- ◆ Providing refreshments: *Good Times Team 1*

## WELCOME GUESTS

*We are Unitarian Universalists. We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are people from many backgrounds who have different beliefs, but shared values.*

*Grounded in more than two hundred years of thoughtful, spiritual communities, we are people of many generations, ethnicities, genders and sexualities, and spiritual backgrounds. People engaged in making the world a better place. People focusing on what really matters – love, justice, integrity, and hope.*

*We are a lay-led congregation. Lay-led congregations have no minister which means members of the congregation manage the various aspects of our church life. Unitarian Universalism has a proud tradition of lay-led churches.*

*We Unitarian Universalists have different beliefs, but shared values. We are Unitarian Universalists, and at the same time we may also be agnostic, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, humanist, Jewish, Muslim, pagan, atheist, believers in God, and those who just let the great mystery be. The diversity of beliefs you'll find in our church community is one of our strengths – we're always learning how to see the world from a different perspective.*

*Learn more about us at your leisure by downloading our app 'Red River UU' from Google Play or the Apps Store.*

*This is who we are. We are glad you joined us today.*



## NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2022

10 am - Adult Forum

A new program begins next week.  
Check for details in this week's UPDATE.

11:15 am - The Morning Assembly

### Education and the Beloved Community

Rev Dr Mark Y.A. Davies, *leading*

With education and academic freedom coming under pressure and attack from autocratic forces within our society, how can we protect our educational systems and institutions from losing their ability to provide education that is conducive to the cultivation of beloved community? You can read Mark's bio on the our website, and mobile app.

12:15 pm – Conversations & Calories

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Download our mobile app >>>>



# THE MORNING PROGRAM

SUNDAY MAY 7, 2023



Spiritually Alive  
Radically Inclusive  
Justice Centered