

*Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope,
renewal, and new life.*

~ Janine di Giovanni

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

- ◆ Ringing the Tibetan Bowl
- ◆ Call to Community
Love Brings Us Back to Life
by Peggy Clarke**
- ◆ Candles of Community
Prelude *Mother Earth, Beloved Garden*
Words & Music by Amanda Udis-Kessler; Performed by Alena Hemingway*, Brian Kenny*, Mike Menefee*, and Brian Watson*
- ◆ Chalice Lighting
Chalice for the Earth
by Adena Dannouf*
- ◆ 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.*
- ◆ Lighting the Peace Candle
- ◆ Stewardship Moment

EXPANDING OUR UNDERSTANDINGS

- ◆ Opening Thought
by the Worship Team*
- ◆ Retelling the History
*The Story of Norbert Čapek's** Flower Ceremony* by Teresa** & David Schwartz**
- ◆ Bringing the Flowers Forward
Song 21 *For the Beauty of the Earth*
Michael Tacy* and friends singing
Song 64 *Oh, Give us Pleasure in the Flowers Today*
First Parish Choir in Needham MA singing

HONORING OUR HERITAGE

- ◆ Readings
Within the Heart of the Flower
by Amy Zucer Morgenstern**
The Colors of Communion
by Jennifer Pratt-Walter**
- ◆ Singing Song - 203
All Creatures of the Earth and Sky
Singing: The UU Church of the Philippines
- ◆ Practices – with words, stillness, music
Words *Fragile and Rooted*
by Carolyn S. Owen-Towle**
Quiet Sitting for a Moment
Musical Response – *For the Beauty of the Earth*
Music by Conrad Kocher; Performed by Paul Cardall*

- ◆ Reading
Spring Surprise
by Kristy Johnson*
- ◆ Singing Song 61
Lo, the Earth Awakes Again Spring
performed by Pris Golden & Marcie Kindred*
- ◆ Reading
For the Flowers have the Gift of Language
by Richard S. Gilbert**
- ◆ Singing Song 44
We Sing of Golden Mornings Les Tacy, singing
- ◆ Reading
Rain
by Gil Alexander
- ◆ Reading
Earth Teach Me
by the Ute native people of North America

CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

- ◆ Giving
Those who wish may bring their gifts to the table.
Offertory: *Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers*
Singing: Unitarian Church of Los Alamos, NM
- ◆ With a Gift for All
Plant and Take a Flower
based on a seed ritual by Diana Smith*
- ◆ Music
Flower Doxology
Music by Genevan Psalter; Words by Lisa Doege**
Performed by Dan Althoff*
- ◆ Singing Song 207
Earth Was Given as a Garden
performed by Les Tacy*
- ◆ A Parting Thought
Closing Word for Easter
by Alex Holt**
- ◆ Benediction
Flower Communion Blessing
by Thomas Rhodes**
- ◆ Extinguishing the Chalice
*We extinguish this flame but not the light
The warmth of community or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.*
- ◆ Postlude
For the Beauty of the Earth

PROGRAM NOTES

This special morning assembly honoring Easter and Flower Communion was created by the Worship Team.

It happens this week:

- ◆ Overeaters Anonymous* - Monday 6 -7 pm
 - ◆ Earth Day Set up - Friday - 8-until finished
 - ◆ Earth Day - Saturday - 9-4 Municipal Park, Sherman
- *Outside group using our building

MAKING THINGS HAPPEN TODAY

- ◆ Board rep for April: *Jana Norris*
- ◆ Greeting us at the door: *Sherilyn Bolerjack*
- ◆ Leading today: *the Worship Team*
- ◆ AV crew: *Carole Harner, Liz Rapp, Jim Holmes*
- ◆ Sunday school leader: *Jack*
- ◆ Providing refreshments: *Good Times Team #3*

WELCOME VISITORS

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.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2025

10 am - Adult Forum
Skeptics & Believers

11:15 am - The Morning Assembly
Skills for Stressful Times

Marla Loturco, *leading*

Is your to-do list overwhelming? Do the demands of family or work stress you out? Or maybe it's politics, climate change, or global conflict that are making you feel anxious.

It's impossible to eliminate all your stress, but science shows you can learn to manage it better. This morning, we will explore some techniques to help us de-stress our lives and keep hope alive.

THE MORNING PROGRAM FOR EASTER SUNDAY



APRIL 20, 2025

WE ARE . . .



SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
JOYFULLY INCLUSIVE
JUSTICE CENTERED

