



**Unitarian Universalist
Community of Charlotte**

Sunday, June 4, 2023

Flowers in Our Garden: 100th Anniversary of the Flower Ceremony

Service Leaders:

Rev. Lisa Bovee-Kemper, Minister

Michael Amy Rodriguez Cira, Lay Service Leader

John Herrick, Director of Music

In the name of love,
we celebrate the friendships found here.

May we be held in the long tradition of this faith,
knowing that we stand on shoulders
of those who came before us;
let us carry their same resolution
to honor the inherent worth and dignity
of every person.

From a prayer by Rev. Norbert Čapek

Order of Service

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Lisa Bovee-Kemper, Minister

Opening Music

Cantan las Flores (The Flowers Are Singing) by Michael D. Mendoza
Adult Choir, John Herrick, director
Kaarin Record, collaborative pianist

Call to Worship

*Opening Song

O Life That Maketh All Things New
[Gray #12] words by Samuel Longfellow
Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

*O Life that maketh all things new,
the blooming earth, our thoughts within,
our pilgrim feet, wet with thy dew,
in gladness hither turn again.*

*From hand to hand the greeting flows,
from eye to eye the signals run,
from heart to heart the bright hope glows,
the seekers of the light are one:*

*One in the freedom of the truth,
one in the joy of paths untrod,
one in the soul's perennial youth,
one in the larger thought of God;*

*Please stand in body or spirit.

*The freer step, the fuller breath,
the wide horizon's grander view,
the sense of life that knows no death,
the Life that maketh all things new.*

***Chalice Lighting**

Michael Amy Rodriguez Cira, Lay Service Leader

***Chalice Lighting Chorus**

Love Will Guide Us, v. 1 [Gray #131]

words by Sally Rogers
Traditional Melody

*Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.*

Time for All Ages

Norbert's Lasting Idea

by Laurel Whitehouse

Children's Benediction

by Ian Riddell

*Go in love, our hearts go with you.
Go in joy, our hopes go too
Learn in love and grow in wisdom.
Shine your light in all you do.*

Reading

by Norbert Čapek, adapted

***Congregational Song**

Seek Not Afar for Beauty [Gray #77]

words by Minot Judson Savage

music by Cyril V. Taylor

*Seek not afar for beauty; lo, it glows
in dew-wet grasses all about your feet,
in birds, in sunshine, childish faces sweet,
in stars and mountain summits topped with snows.*

*Go not abroad for happiness; behold
it is a flower blooming at your door.
Bring love and laughter home, and evermore
joy shall be yours as changing years unfold.*

*In wonder-workings or some bush aflame,
we look for Truth and fancy it concealed;
but in earth's common things it stands revealed,
while grass and flowers and stars spell out the name.*

Volunteer Recognition

Kelly Greene, Director of Member Relations

Musical Offering

In This Very Room by Ron and Carol Harris

Reading

by Christine Dance

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Consecration of the Flowers

by Rev. Sarah Movius Schurr, adapted

Minister: Each one of us brings our own gifts, talents, perspectives, spiritual journeys, joys and sorrows. Each of us brings a unique and beautiful self. Thank you everyone for the gifts you bring to this community.

If you are seated on the right side of the sanctuary, please read lines labeled "RS". Left side, please read lines labeled "LS".

RS: These flowers we see before us,
they come in many shades and colors.

LS: They come in many sizes and shapes.
They carry different scents. Some have no scent at all.

Minister: Yet all were created by the same miracle.

RS: The miracle, that these blossoms grow every year out of the ... mixing of water, soil, and sunshine.

LS: Our lives are miracles as well.

Minister: Despite our trials and disappointments, UUs across the world [celebrate Flower Communion each year.]

RS: To be reminded that all of us have value and all have a place in the beauty of the world.

LS: To be reminded that where you came from is not as important as the fact that you are here now.

ALL: To be reminded that all are welcome [in this community].
We come to be a part of something greater than ourselves.

Offering Words

*While the offering is collected, you are invited to come forward and
light a candle honoring a milestone, concern, celebration
of your own or in honor of someone else.*

Offering Music *To a Wild Rose* by Edward MacDowell
John Herrick, piano

Concerns of the Congregation

Meditation *If I Were a Flower* by Carole Martignacco

*Closing Song *For the Earth Forever Turning* [Gray #163]
by Kim Oler

*For the earth forever turning;
for the skies, for ev'ry sea;
for our lives, for all we cherish,
sing we our joyful song of peace.*

*For the mountains, hills, and pastures
in their silent majesty;
for the stars, for all the heavens,
sing we our joyful song of peace.*

*Please stand in body or spirit.

*For the sun, for rain and thunder,
for the seasons' harmony,
for our lives, for all creation,
sing we our joyful praise to Thee.*

*For the world we raise our voices,
for the home that gives us birth;
in our joy we sing returning home
to our bluegreen hills of earth.*

***Closing Words
and Extinguishing the Chalice**

Closing Music

Sun Flower Slow Drag

by Scott Joplin and Scott Hayden

Announcements, Events, and Programming

- **UUCC Members** please remain in the sanctuary following the service for our **Congregational Conversation and Annual Meeting**. It will start as soon as possible after the end of the service.
- **Visitors**, please join us for coffee and conversation in **Freeman Hall** immediately following the service. Contact Kelly Greene if you would like to volunteer as a coffee server.
- **Beginning next Sunday, June 11**, we will offer **Camp 234**, our summer Sunday morning programming for ages 4yrs - 5th grade. Camp 234 offers a variety of guest-led workshops with a wide range of topics. More details in *Currents!*
- **Join Rev. Amy Brooks Paradise** in the Sanctuary next Sunday, June 11, following the Sunday Service for an overview of **GreenFaith** and how you can help build a coalition of Charlotte area Houses of Faith.
- If you've been looking for something to do this summer and fun ways to engage with fellow UUCC members, **please consider joining our summer music program**. Details in *Currents*.



Read our Currents
Newsletter