



**Unitarian Universalist
Community of Charlotte**

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Roots Hold Me Close

Service Leaders:

Rev. Amanda Weatherspoon, Settled Minister Candidate

Mic Elvenstar and Dave Warren, Lay Service Leaders

John Herrick, Director of Music

Roots hold me close, wings set me free...

By Carolyn McDade

Order of Service

Welcome and Announcements

Dave Warren, Lay Service Leader

Opening Music

We Shall Be Known

by MaMuse

Call to Worship

Rev. Amanda Weatherspoon, Settled Minister Candidate

*Opening Song

Gather the Spirit [Gray 347] by Jim Scott

*Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our sep'rate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.
Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.*

*Please stand in body or spirit.

*Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more.
Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.*

*Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one.
Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.*

***Chalice Lighting Words**

Mic Elvenstar, Lay Service Leader

***Chorus**

Return Again [Teal 1011]

by Shlomo Carlebach

*Return again, Return again,
Return to the home of your soul.
Return to who you are, Return to what you are,
Return to where you are born and reborn again.*

Reading

Musical Offering *We Are...* by Ysaye M. Barnwell
Adult Choir
John Herrick, Director of Music

Sermon *Roots Hold Me Close*

***Congregational Song**
There's a River Flowin' in My Soul [Teal 1007]
by Rose Sanders

*There's a river flowin' in my soul.
There's a river flowin' in my soul.
And it's tellin' me that I'm somebody.
There's a river flowin' in my soul.*

*There's a river flowin' in my heart...
There's a river flowin' in my mind...*

Reflection

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Musical Offering

Where the Music Comes From

by Lee Hoiby
George Washington III, soloist
John Herrick, piano

Offering Words

Offering Music

Coming Home

by Joseph M. Martin

Concerns of the Congregation

Choral Response

Spirit of Life [Gray 123] (seated)

*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.*

***Closing Song** *The Fire of Commitment* [Teal 1028]

words by Mary Katherine Morn
music by Jason Shelton

*From the light of days remembered
burns a beacon bright and clear
Guiding hands and hearts and spirits
Into faith set free from fear.
When the fire of commitment
sets our mind and soul a blaze
When our hunger and our passion
meet to call us on our way
When we live with deep assurance
of the flame that burns within,
Then our promise finds fulfillment
and our future can begin.*

*From the stories of our living
rings a song both brave and free,
Calling pilgrims still to witness
to the life of liberty.
When the fire of commitment
sets our mind and soul a blaze
When our hunger and our passion
meet to call us on our way
When we live with deep assurance
of the flame that burns within,
Then our promise finds fulfillment
and our future can begin.*

*From the dreams of youthful vision
comes a new, prophetic voice,
Which demands a deeper justice
built by our courageous choice
When the fire of commitment
sets our mind and soul a blaze
When our hunger and our passion
meet to call us on our way
When we live with deep assurance
of the flame that burns within,
Then our promise finds fulfillment
and our future can begin.*

Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice

Closing Music

Toccata on We Are...

by Ysaye M. Barnwell
organ setting by John Herrick

Announcements, Events, and Programming

- Please join us directly after the service for our kickoff of Candidating week with Rev. Amanda Weatherspoon at a reception in Freeman Hall.
- The Minister Search Team has developed a schedule of events for Candidating Week, April 28 - May 5, intended to give members multiple opportunities to hear from and interact with Rev. Amanda ahead of the congregational vote on May 5. Check out our *Currents* article to see the full schedule of events.
- On Sunday, May 5 at 11:30 a.m., the UUCC Board of Trustees will conduct a Congregational Meeting during which members will have the opportunity to vote to call Reverend Amanda Weatherspoon as our full-time settled minister. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary and streamed live. We encourage members to attend in-person if possible. For members unavailable during the meeting, we have made provisions for absentee voting.
- May will be an exciting month at UUCC, and that includes many new **Adult Religious Education and Spiritual Development (ARESD) Classes**. This set of classes offers something for everyone: A movie watch party, a book talk with authors and UUCC members Charles Pilkey and Fred Dobson, a study of the concepts and practice of prayer, and another chance to explore religious language.
- The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024. "Love Unites, Stories Ignite" celebrates the profound impact of love as a binding force that transcends boundaries and fosters connections within our faith community and beyond.



Read our Currents
Newsletter

We are grateful for your generous financial support of the Unitarian Universalist Community of Charlotte. THANK YOU!

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Welcome visitors! We're glad you found us and hope you will spend some time getting to know us better. If you want to learn more about the UUCC, please visit our website and/or email Director of Member Relations Kelly Greene.

We are delighted to be building a truly multigenerational community, and we know this is a new experience for many. Please be considerate of others in the Sanctuary. If your child needs a break but you wish to still hear the service, you are invited to visit our alternative worship space in the Bernstein Room. Additionally, childcare is always available in the nursery during shared worship times. If your child isn't able to be in the service for long, please keep trying as they grow! It is a blessing to have them here.

UUCC Staff

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**Please stand in body or spirit.*

