

Order Of Service – March 7, 2021

What Does “Free Church” Mean to You?

Music for Contemplation: Movements from J. S. Bach, *Unaccompanied Cello Suites: Sarabande from Suite No. 3 in C Major, Prelude and Sarabande from Suite No. 4 in E-flat Major*. Photos by Mary MacNamee, Susan Jhirad and Steve Schmidt, and © Soul Matters.

Sound of the Bell

Prelude: *Chacone* (excerpt), composer Henri Roubier, pianist Molly Ruggles

Opening Words: “Making Sacred” by Stephen Shick from *Consider the Lilies*

Welcome

Chalice Lighting: “To Flame” by Stephen Shick from *Consider the Lilies*

Covenant

Love is the heart of this church.

We commit to:

Being a diverse, welcoming community of mutual care and respect;

Supporting each other's spiritual journey and search for truth and meaning;

Promoting justice and serving the wider community.

We hold ourselves to this promise with compassion and understanding.

Hymn: *Gather the Spirit*, words and music by Jim Scott (*Singing the Living Tradition*, #347). Vocalists Shaina Sawyer & Brendan O’Brine, pianist Molly Ruggles.

Gather the spirit, harvest the power. Our separate 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.

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.

Candles of Joy, Sorrow and Milestones

Presentation by the 2021 Canvass Committee: Dana MacNamee and Susan Driscoll:

“The Hill We Climb”

UU Medford Song, composer/pianist Molly Ruggles

Offering: *Mourning Dove*, composer/pianist Molly Ruggles

Meditation: words by James Luther Adams from *Singing the Living Tradition* #591 and *Lifting Our Voices* #166

Hymn: *Gathered Here*, words and music by Philip A. Porter (*Singing the Living Tradition*, #389). Vocalists Carole Bundy, Molly Ruggles, Nancy Kurtz.

Gathered here in the mystery of the hour.

Gathered here in one strong body.

Gathered here in the struggle and the power.

Spirit, draw near.

(repeat)

Sermon: *What Does “Free Church” Mean to You?*

Hymn: *For All That Is Our Life*, words by Bruce Findlow, music by Patrick L. Rickey. (*Singing the Living Tradition*, #128). Vocalist Will McMillan, pianist Molly Ruggles.

For all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise;

for all life is a gift which we are called to use

to build the common good and make our own days glad.

For needs which others serve, for services we give,
for work and its rewards, for hours of rest and love;
we come with praise and thanks for all that is our life.

For sorrow we must bear, for failures, pain and loss,
for each new thing we learn, for fearful hours that pass:
we come with praise and thanks for all that is our life.

For all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise;
for all life is a gift which we are called to use
to build the common good and make our own days glad.

Closing Words: Words by Duke T. Gray from *Singing the Living Tradition* #684

Postlude: *The Climb*, by Jesse Alexander & Jon Mabe. Guitarist and vocalist
Brendan Shea.

Question for coffee-hour discussion: In what ways does your Unitarian
Universalism liberate you, and to what ends?