

Sunday, December 11, 2022  
***Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Medford***

**A Warm Welcome to Our Guests**

Thank you for joining us this morning! We recognize that you have many choices and we are grateful you chose to be with us. We invite you to sign the guest book in the vestibule, and to learn more about our church community, please visit our website: [www.uumedford.org](http://www.uumedford.org); Facebook: ***Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford***; email: [office@uumedford.org](mailto:office@uumedford.org); or telephone (781) 396-4549.

UU Church of Medford welcomes everyone and is recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association as a Welcoming Congregation. This means that we are a church that is inclusive and expressive of the concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons at every level of congregational life.

***Church Staff Ministries:***

Rev. Bruce Taylor, Minister: [minister@uumedford.org](mailto:minister@uumedford.org)  
Molly Ruggles, Music Director: [music@uumedford.org](mailto:music@uumedford.org)  
Mimi Olivier, Director of the Children's Program: [dre@uumedford.org](mailto:dre@uumedford.org)  
Brenda Bonetti, Church Office Admin.: [uumedford@uumedford.org](mailto:uumedford@uumedford.org)  
Jim Costello, Sexton

***Sharing Their Ministry in Today's Service:***

Rev. Fred Small  
(Steve Schmidt)  
Music: Russell Tripp  
Tech Volunteers: Paul Marcucilli, Michael Glenn



***The Peace of Trees***

*We are glad you are among us today.*

To honor and be present to this sacred space and time,  
please silence your cell phones.

*We call upon the forests, the great trees reaching strongly to the sky  
with earth in their roots and the heavens in their branches,  
the fir and the pine and the cedar,  
and we ask them to  
Teach us, and show us the Way.”  
~David Whyte, edited by Fritz Hull*

### Morning Songs

\*Hymn #90    **From All the Fret and Fever of the Day**  
*Monroe Beardsley*

\*Hymn #88    **Calm Soul of All Things**    *Matthew Arnold*

### The Bell Sounds and Candles Are Lit

Prelude                      **Andante**                      *Flor Peeters*

Call to Worship    **Prayer of Awareness**    *John Philip Newell*

### Welcome and Greeting

Chalice Lighting                      **#463**                      *Adrienne Rich*

### 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.

\*Song                      **Welcome In**                      *Sarina Partridge*

**A Time for All Ages**                      **Tree Meditation**  
*Mara Freeman (adapted)*

**Children's Parting Song: Go in Peace**  
*Words: Li Kynvi; music: Andey Amata and Molly Ruggles*

Our beloveds, we are with you; go in peace.  
May the spirit of love surround you; go in peace.  
(repeat)

### Opportunity for Generosity:

**Music**                      **Winds Be Still**                      *Samuel Sebastian Wesley*

### Offering response:

We are grateful for these gifts we have received,  
that sustain us and affirm the ministries of our church community.

### Candles of Joys, Sorrows and Milestones

Prayer    *Steve Garnaas-Holmes*

### Silent Meditation

\*Hymn #163    **For the Earth Forever Turning**    *Kim Oler*

Sermon    **The Peace of Trees**

Song    **Tree of Life**                      *Guy Carawan*

\*Community Closing and Benediction                      *Stephanie Kaza*

Postlude    **Wild Waves of Storm**                      *Liby Larsen (adapted)*

\*You are invited to rise as you are able.