

Sunday, October 22, 2023
*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; Facebook: *Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford*; email: 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
Mimi Olivier, Director of Religious Education: dre@uumedford.org
Brenda Bonetti, Church Office Admin.: uumedford@uumedford.org
Jim Costello, Sexton
The Caring Team: uucm-caring@groups.io

Sharing Their Ministry in Today's Service:

Minister: Rev. Bruce Taylor
Music: Russell Tripp, Alex Daum
Tech Volunteers: Loretta Hubley, Dennis Keane, Mary MacNamee



Understanding Heaven Through Jokes

We are glad you are among us today.

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

“I don’t want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve immortality through not dying.”~Woody Allen

Morning Songs

***Hymn #101 Abide with Me**
Words: Henry Francis Lyte; music: William Henry Monk

***Hymn #289 Creative Love, Our Thanks We Give**
Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; music: Thomas Benjamin

***Hymn #191 Now I Recall My Childhood**
Words: Rabindrinath Tagore; music: Alfred Morton Smith

The Bell Sounds and Candles Are Lit

Prelude Andante Vincent Novello

Call to Worship (Responsive Reading #443)
We Arrive Out of Many Singular Rooms Kenneth L. Patton

Welcome and Greeting

Chalice Lighting Leslie Takahashi

*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 #1064 Blue Boat Home**
Words: Peter Mayer; music: Roland Hugh Prichard

A Time for All Ages What Happens When We Die?
Mimi Olivier

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 Andante Ernst Gebhardi

Offering response:

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

Music Interlude Joseph Modlmayr

Candles of Joys, Sorrows and Milestones

Meditation A Blessing for Intersex Awareness Day
Jude Sylvan

Silent Meditation

Responsive Reading Hope Rises
John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker

***Hymn #146 Soon the Day Will Arrive**
Words: Ehud Manor; music: Nurit Hirsch

Sermon Understanding Heaven Through Jokes

***Hymn #1046 Shall We Gather at the River**
Words & music: Robert Lowry

***Community Closing and Benediction Martha Kirby Capo**

Postlude Be Ours a Religion
Music: Thomas Benjamin; words: Theodore Parker

*You are invited to rise as you are able.