

Order of Service

*First Religious Society
Unitarian Universalist*



*“A small body of determined spirits fired by
an unquenchable faith in their mission
can alter the course of history.”*

— Mahatma Gandhi

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Virtual services will be accessible via YouTube livestream,
Zoom video conference, and audio-only via phone
until further notice.

Order of Service

March Ministry Theme: Generosity

GATHERING MUSIC

Justin Murphy-Mancini

MINDFULNESS BELL

WELCOME TO THE SERVICE

Tom Stites, *Worship Associate*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Reverend Rebecca M. Bryan

CHALICE LIGHTING

Karen Young and Rebecca Brodish,
Parish Board Chair and Vice-Chair

We gather this hour as people of faith
With joys and sorrows, gifts and needs.
We light this beacon of hope,
Sign of our quest
For truth and meaning,
In celebration of the life we share together.

CANDLES OF PEACE *ALL* Peace, Salam, Shalom

***HYMN** #126 Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest of truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve humankind in fellowship,
To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine—
Thus do we covenant with each other and with God.

*DOXOLOGY

From all that dwell below the skies
Let faith and hope with love arise;
Let beauty, truth and good be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

TIME FOR ALL AGES “What We Created”

Juliana Beauvais
and Rev. Bryan

TESTIMONIAL “Stages of Membership”

John Mercer

OFFERTORY AND GIVING RITUAL

Justin Murphy-Mancini

Offertoire

Whitney Eugene Thayer

RESPONSIVE READING

Tom Stites

#33 "From Lifting Our Voices" (Patrick Murfin)

Worship Associate: We gather as leaders, as servants.

Congregation: We gather as ears, as voices.

Worship Associate: We gather as memory, as hope.

Congregation: We gather as family, as pilgrims.

Worship Associate: We gather as faithful, as skeptics.

Congregation: We gather as objects, as subjects.

Worship Associate: We gather as wisdom, as folly.

Congregation: We gather as action, as reflection.

Worship Associate: We gather as many, as one.

ALL: As we are, we shall be. As we serve, so shall we lead.

COMMUNITY PRAYER OF SORROW AND JOY

Rev. Bryan

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Bryan

INTERLUDE

Justin Murphy-Mancini

Voluntary in D major

John Stanley

REFLECTIONS

Julie Parker Amery and Rev. Bryan

HYMN #121 We'll Build a Land

***UNISON BENEDICTION**

May the Love which overcomes all differences,
Which heals all wounds,
Which puts to flight all fears,
Which reconciles all who are separated,
Be in us and among us now and always.

BLESSING

Rev. Bryan

POSTLUDE

Justin Murphy-Mancini

Variations on *Nettleton*

Undine Smith Moore

Notes on today's music

As we face the challenges ahead, we recognize the power of music to connect us across physical distances. The organ has traveled alongside humanity for untold crises, from the famous plagues of the Middle Ages through the Thirty Years War and the conflicts of the twentieth century. This morning, we hear an **Offertoire** by **Whitney Eugene Thayer** (1838-89), who served First Church UU in Boston in the mid-nineteenth century. His music evokes the youthful period of the FRS organ, built in 1834. **John Stanley** (1712-86) was an English musical prodigy left nearly blind from an accident at age two. In his, he was a well-known composer and performer and friend of George Frideric Handel. He wrote many pieces for organ called “**Voluntary**” to be used during church services when the organist had the freedom to play solo. **Undine Smith Moore** (1904-89) was an Black composer, performer, and teacher who had an extraordinarily long career at Virginia State University. Her variations on “**Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing**,” is her sole surviving organ piece.

This Week's Questions to Ponder, Discuss and Hold...

1. What words stick out to you in the proposed values, mission and ends? Why?
2. How might you, the congregation, and the wider community, be changed for the better by our adopting these values, mission and ends?
3. What are your personal values that ground your priorities and decision making?

Notes on today's service

We use the **mindfulness bell** at the start of each service as an invitation to center ourselves and open our minds and hearts to worship. The bell is rung three times.

Candles of Peace

Each week we light these candles to represent two places on earth that especially need peace this week.

Candle Lighting for Joys and Concerns

Please feel free to light a candle of joy and concern before the service.

Minister

The Rev. Rebecca Bryan

Affiliated Ministers

The Rev. Stanton Barrett

The Rev. Helen Murgida

Ministers Emeritus

The Rev. Harold Babcock

The Rev. Bert Steeves

Today's Dedications

The flowers for today's service are provided by Nathan and Merryl Maleska Wilbur in loving memory of Lawrence Joshua Cohen (April 5, 1977 - March 20, 1980) and of Merryl's parents, Eugene and Jean Maleska, who were married on March 23, 1940.

This week's steeple lighting is given by the Blagg/Staples family in loving memory of Deb's father, Durward O'Neal Blagg, and Ben's father, Richard Farnsworth Staples.

March Collection for a Cause:

Half of March's unpledged cash collection will go the Unitarian Universalist Association. The UUA will apply all that we give to a special national project called UU the Vote, which is devoted to getting the most people possible to register to vote and then to make it to the polls on election day. FRS is planning to join this campaign locally.

Connect & Engage: Here's What's Going On

Dear members and friends,

We are going virtual!

To protect the health and safety of everyone, the church buildings will be closed effective 5pm, Saturday, March 14 through at least March 30th. All activities including worship and any size meetings will happen online.

We are fortunate to have an amazing streaming set up for Sunday worship services and access to online Zoom video conferencing for other programs and meetings. We will evaluate the feasibility of resuming in person worship and meetings as of April 1st, and you will be the first to know.

During this time, you can stay connected in many ways. Sunday worship services will be streamed online at 10:30am. You may subscribe to our live stream ahead of time or access the day of at <http://bit.ly/FRSyoutube>. You will also receive a link to the live stream before the start of service.

You will also be able to connect every day through our 30-minute online programs. Be sure to mark your calendars and participate as you are able.

Next week's schedule includes:

Sunday evening, March 15, 7pm — “Bedtime Story” for children and all ages, read by Reverend Rebecca and Mara Flynn.

Monday, March 16, 1pm and 6pm — Justin Murphy Mancini, “At the Organ”

Tuesday, March 17, 11am — Julie Parker Amery, “Reflection and spiritual talk”

Wednesday, March 18, Noon — Rev. Rebecca, “Let’s Do Lunch”
- a virtual potluck - bring you lunch and join the discussion topic of the day

Thursday, March 19, 7pm — Reflection by Rev. Rebecca, “The Abyss of Aloneness: A Way to Know Connection When You are Alone”

Friday, March 20, Noon — Julie Parker Amery, “Let’s Do Lunch”
- a virtual potluck - bring you lunch and join the discussion topic of the day

These services on Sunday and through the week are a great opportunity to introduce FRS to friends and neighbors who are looking for ways to connect.

Remember too that we are starting a phone tree to keep those who must stay home connected to the church community. Please email Rev. Rebecca, revrebecca.bryan@frsuu.org, and Susan Ricker, smricker@aol.com, if you would like to be added to the list to receive calls and connect with others who are also at home. Pastoral Care Associates are assembling the list, and someone will be in touch with you soon.

Kristen Fehlhaber will be reaching out to program organizers to discuss holding your group online. The church has a Zoom video conferencing service which all groups are welcome to use with advance notice. To schedule a Zoom conference, contact Kristen Fehlhaber, kristen.fehlhaber@frsuu.org.

Please note that our account allows us to have only one meeting at a time; meetings cannot be occurring simultaneously.

Above all, stay connected to individuals and the whole of this beloved community. The love here and among us holds and sustains us, when we are together and - even more - when we are apart. For love is the doctrine of this church. And that love is real, present and among us now. Can you feel it? I look forward to connecting to it in creative ways over the days ahead, together.

The staff, your fellow congregants and I are here for you, always.

With love and faith,
Rev. Rebecca

Communications Schedule (effective Sunday, March 15)

- An automated email will be sent out every Sunday before service starts with instructions on how to watch the live stream or dial in to hear audio-only of the service.
- The weekly Steeple will go on hiatus during this time of virtual church and be replaced by “Journeying Together,” an evening email that will publish Sunday through Thursday.
- “Between Us” and “Spiritual Sustenance” will continue to publish as usual.

STAFF

Minister—Reverend Rebecca M. Bryan; **Religious Education Assistant**—Sharon Broll; **Office Administrator**—Diane Carroll; **Youth Group Coordinator**—Becky Dill; **Director of Finance and Administration**—Kristen Fehlhaber; **Acting Director of Children's Ministry**—Mara Flynn; **Director of Church Music**—Justin Murphy-Mancini; **Head Usher**—John Mercer; **Youth Music Director**—Kristen Miller; **Director of Faith Formation and Spiritual Exploration**—Julie Parker Amery; **Sexton**—Don Rogers; **Director of Community Engagement**—Nicole Salemi

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.



Connect with Us!

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