

Soul Matters Theme: What Does It Mean to be a People of Delight?

I am interested in what happens to people who find the whole of life so rewarding that they are able to move through it with the same kind of delight in which a child moves through a game.

—Margaret Mead (1901-78), a White American cultural anthropologist, author, and speaker

Order of Service June 4, 2023: Celebrating Flower Communion

Rev. Rita Capezzi, Preaching

Diane Langland, Worship Associate

Director of Children's Faith Development Macey Forsyth, Storyteller

Diane Dobitz, Greeter

Jeff Lowry and Kat Clements, Tech Squad and Hearing Assist

Please take a flower or bring your flower as you enter the Sanctuary.

Opening Slideshow: To "Flower Duet" from the opera *Lakmé* (1883), music by Leo Delibes to a French libretto by Edmond Gondinet and Philippe Gille. Performed by Sabine Devieille (soprano) and Marianne Crebassa (2017) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1ZL5AxmK_A

Congregational Greeting

Welcome

Bell Chime

Call to Worship: Words from the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray from *Flower 100* in the Flower Ceremony Centennial collection

Chalice Lighting:

If you are viewing through Zoom, please type into the Chat that a chalice is lit on [your street]:

We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth, and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.

Bringing Your Flowers Forward

Hymn: #305 "De Colores" (gray hymnal), words by David Arkin to a Spanish folk tune. Performed by soloists courtesy of the Unitarian Universalist church of Buffalo NY

Story: *My Baba's Garden* (2023), written by Jordan Scott, a White Canadian poet and writer of children's books, and illustrated by Sydney Smith, a White Canadian illustrator of children's books <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChTbTFpuBYI>

Reading: "A Conversation Among the Flowers" by the Rev. Kate Wilkinson from *Flower 100* in the Flower Ceremony Centennial collection

Video: The Story of the Flower Communion, created by the ministers of Foothills Unitarian Church https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mz8ad_9vbhQ

Meditation/Prayer: “Spring Prayer” by Jesse Reynolds in *Love Like Thunder* from *Flower 100* in the Flower Ceremony Centennial collection

Sorrows and Joys

Singing Prayer: To the tune of #1002 (teal hymnal) by Mimi Borstein.

Reading: “If I Were a Flower” by the Rev. Carol Martignacco from *Flower 100* in the Flower Ceremony Centennial collection

Giving: To “My Life Is Made Worthwhile,” a newly discovered hymn written by N. F. Čapek on March 31, 1942, at the concentration camp in Dachau, Germany from *Flower 100* in the Flower Ceremony Centennial collection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gj67ybQpo3Y&list=PLZcOeWkRMI82pVmKEA5EV8kVsNCO MIbks&index=8>

Video: “The Hummingbird and the Flower” by Unitarian Universalist pastor Joshua Berg from *Flower 100* in the Flower Ceremony Centennial collection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K47oV47hH8Y&list=PLZcOeWkRMI82pVmKEA5EV8kVsNCO MIbks&index=9&t=1s>

Flower Communion Ritual

Closing Words—Creating the Future

Hymn: #1000 “Morning Has Come” (teal hymnal) sung by May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, NY from *Flower 100* in the Flower Ceremony Centennial collection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOpa2DRdkCk&list=PLZcOeWkRMI82pVmKEA5EV8kVsNCO MIbks&index=5>

Chalice Extinguishing

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Benediction: Words from the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray from *Flower 100* in the Flower Ceremony Centennial collection

Singing Benediction: “Longtime Sun,” the final three minutes of “A Very Cellular Song” written by Mike Heron and performed by The Incredible String Band on their 1968 album *The Hangman’s Beautiful Daughter*. Sung by UUFM Choir and Congregation accompanied by Nancy Cramblit.

May the longtime sun shine upon you/ All love surround you/And the pure pure light that’s within you/Guide your way home.

Zoom Break Out Rooms: A time for gathering to meet, talk, and connect. Please accept the invitation to join a room.

In-person Hospitality in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level.

Materials for this service today were drawn from the Flower Ceremony Centennial collection from the UUA, commissioned and organized by the Rev. Erica Hewitt <https://www.uua.org/worship/lab/flower-ceremony-centennial>