

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

“We work for justice because we have the potential to effect change, and we measure the value of our work not in terms of outcomes achieved but in the process of struggle itself.”

–Anthony Pinn (b. 1964), a Black American professor working at the intersections of African American religion, constructive theology, and humanist thought

Order of Service for April 23, 2023: The Audacity to Imagine Sisyphus Happy

Rev. Dr. Andrea Johnson, Preaching

Rev. Rita Capezzi, Worship Associate

Nancy Cramblit, Musician

Director of Children’s Faith Development Macey Forsyth, Storyteller

Diane Dobitz, Greeter

Andy Roberts and Kat Clements, Tech Squad

Dennis Cramblit, Hearing Assist

Macey Forsyth, Children’s Chapel

DeeAnn Nelson and Keri Johnson, Nursery

Karen & John Knox and Molly & Joe Reinemann, Hospitality

Opening Slideshow: To “Let Justice Roll Down” by Aileen Vance (a White singer, songwriter, music educator, composer, performer, choir director, parent and community member based in Santa Cruz, CA), performed by Lea Morris (a Black singer, singer-songwriter, and musician based in the DC area), nnad with the voice of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgyPJ41yDZY>

Congregational Greeting

Welcome & Announcements

Bell Chime

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.

Hymn: #170 “We Are a Gentle Angry People” (gray hymnal), words and music by Holly Near

<https://farfringe.com/stlt170-we-are-a-gentle-angry-people/>

Story: “The Myth of Sisyphus” from Greek mythology and French philosopher Albert Camus, and re-told by Director of Children’s Faith Development Macey Forsyth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4pDUxth5fQ>

Singing the Youngers to CFD Activities

Meditation/Prayer: “A Prayer for Unfinished Business” by the Rev. Kelly Weisman Asprooth-Jackson, Unitarian Universalist minister serving First Unitarian Society in Madison, WI
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/prayer-unfinished-business>

Sorrows and Joys

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

Giving: To offertory “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson

Reading: Excerpt from Anthony Pinn’s book *Humanism: Essays on race, religion, and cultural production*

Sermon

Hymn: #1017 “Building a New Way” (teal hymnal), words and music by Martha Sandefer

<https://farfringe.com/stj1017-building-a-new-way/>

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.

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