

There is no me without you./We shape one another.

The Sacred that birthed us/weaves our lives together

so that we can only find ourselves /through shared becoming.

--by the Worship Collective enfleshed: spiritual nourishment for collective liberation
[enfleshed](#)

Order of Service for April 25, 2021: A Queer Conversation

Rev. Joel Miller, preaching and featuring Susan B. Miller and Holland Rietberg

Rev. Rita Capezzi, Worship Associate

Zoom Support from Macey Forsyth, Elora Greiner, and Treselia Greiner

We Gather and Invite

Still to Come. . . After Worship to “Waiting in Vain” (instrumental) by Black Jamaican singer, songwriter, musician, and tireless justice advocate Bob Marley (1945-81) [Bob Marley - Waiting In Vain Instrumental - YouTube](#)

Announcements to “Where You Go” (2018) by Shoshona Jedwab; sung by mezzo-soprano Helen Lowry and soprano Jessie Downs, accompanied by Jonathan Vogtle, all courtesy of the UU Church of Buffalo (NY). Based on a verse from the *Book of Ruth* in the Hebrew Bible, the song was released on the one-year anniversary of the Muslim Travel Ban. The daughter of a Holocaust survivor, Shoshana Jedwab is a Jewish educator, singer-songwriter, prayer leader, and hand drummer with more than 27 years of experience bringing sacred Jewish texts to life for a wide variety of audiences. [Shoshana Jedwab April 21, 2021 Weekly Update \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Bell Chime

Singing: #188 (gray hymnal) “Come, Come, Whoever You Are” [words adapted from 13th Century Persian poet and Islamic mystic Rumi, with music by Unitarian Universalist minister the Rev. Lynn Ungar]. Vocals by soprano Jessie Downs and mezzo soprano Helen Lowry, accompanied by Jonathan Vogtle (all courtesy of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, NY). We are reminded that the original poem includes the line “though we’ve broken our vows a thousand time,” a call to humility, forgiveness, and repair.

Welcome

Special Announcements, including introduction for Rev. Joel Miller

[Special opening Words Queer Conversation april 2021 - YouTube](#)

We Center Ourselves to Worship/Shape Worth

Chalice Lighting with John and Karen Knox

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.

Story: *It Feels Good to be Yourself* written by Theresa Thorn and illustrated by Noah Grigni.

Read on video by Director of Children’s Faith Development Macey Forsyth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJf7X4cPPqo>

Reading: “With Apologies to Nancy Drew” by white American-born writer, photographer, activist and academic Margaret Randall (b. 1936). Read on video by the Rev. Joel Miller [Reading With Apologies Nancy Drew Queer 720 April 2021 - YouTube](#)

We Build Community

Giving: With offertory #402 (gray hymnal) “From You I Receive” by Joseph and Nathan Segal (brothers and both rabbis who wrote and sang together in the 1960s-1980s; sung by Unitarian Universalist minister the Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt <https://youtu.be/k7a0Lei2OCA>

Meditation: “Grounding” by Jess Reynolds, from their Skinner House Books collection *love like thunder* (2018). Reynolds is a writer active at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento.

Bell Chime

Sorrows and Joys: Please type into the Chat, and Rev. Rita will read aloud

Singing: To the tune of #1002 (teal hymnal) by Mimi Borstein; accompanied by Jeff Lowry

We Take a Deeper Dive

Video Sermon: A Queer Conversation, featuring Susan B. Miller and Holland Rietberg

Hymn: #1053 “How Could Anyone?” (teal hymnal) by Libby Roderick, sung by Helen Lowry and accompanied by Jon Vogtle, both courtesy of the UU Church of Buffalo (NY)

We Move into the Larger World with Renewed Commitment

Chalice Extinguishing with John and Karen Knox

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.

Congregational Greeting (everyone is invited to unmute)

Break Out Rooms: A time for gathering to meet, talk, and connect