

**A person will worship something –have no doubt about that...That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives, our character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming.**

--Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), Unitarian Minister and Transcendentalist

### **Order of Service for May 16, 2021: Why Unitarian Universalism Now?**

Rev. Rita Capezzi, preaching

Zoom Support from Macey Forsyth, Liz Kipp, 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 “I am Light” by Black American singer and songwriter India Arie (b. 1975) [India.Arie - I Am Light \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#) [May 12, 2021 Weekly Update \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

### **Bell Chime**

**Singing:** #188 (gray hymnal) “Come, Come, Whoever You Are” [words adapted from 13<sup>th</sup> Century Persian poet and Islamic mystic Rumi, with music by white 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**

### **We Center Ourselves to Worship/Shape Worth**

**Chalice Lighting** with the Andrews Burk Family on video

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.*

**Reading:** “Prayer of Storytelling” by Mandie McGlynn, in her words “a super queer Jew whose vocation is focused on spiritual care for those unaffiliated with or underserved by institutional religion.” [Prayer of Storytelling | WorshipWeb | UUA.org](#)

**Story:** *Maybe: A Story about the Endless Potential in All of Us*, written by Kobi Yamada and illustrated by Gabriella Barouch. Read on video by Children’s Faith Development Director Macey Forsyth. [Maybe: A story about the endless potential in all of us - YouTube](#)

**Homily, Part 1:** Who Are We?

### **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 white Unitarian Universalist minister the Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt <https://youtu.be/k7a0Lei2OCA>

**Meditation:** adapted from “The Life that Stretches between Us” by the Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher, now retired from Unitarian Universalist ministry [The Life That Stretches Between Us | WorshipWeb | UUA.org](#)

**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**

**Reading:** “Constellations of Our Lives” by the Rev. Karen G. Johnston, a white Unitarian Universalist minister serving our congregation in East Brunswick, NJ [Constellations of Our Lives | WorshipWeb | UUA.org](#)

**Homily, Part 2: Why Are We?**

**Hymn:** #1031 “Filled with Loving Kindness” (teal hymnal), a traditional Buddhist meditation, adapted by Mark W. Hayes with music by Ian W. Riddell. Sung by mezzo-soprano Helen Lowry, 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 the Andrews Burk Family on video

*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.