

“If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden.”

– Frances Hodgson Burnett (1849-1924), British novelist and playwright

Order of Service for June 6, 2021—Flower Communion

Rev. Rita Capezzi, officiating

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 “Flowers” by The Emotions, a Grammy-winning American R&B group from Chicago active from 1962-2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbcbOFM4tFQ&t=187s>

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 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 DeeAnn Nelson

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: *The Boy Who Grew Flowers* (2005) written by Jen Wojtowicz and illustrated Steve Adams. Read on video by our Director of Children’s Faith Development Macey Forsyth. [The Boy Who Grew Flowers - YouTube](#)

Origin of the Flower Communion

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: “Travelers Upon the Earth” by the Rev. Elizabeth M. Strong, a Unitarian Universalist minister who died this year [Travelers upon the Earth | WorshipWeb | UUA.org](#)

Bell Chime

Celebration of Community through Flowers to “Flower Duet” from the opera *Lakmé* by Léo Delibes

(1883) sung by soprano Jessie Downs, soprano and mezzo-soprano Helen Lowry, both courtesy of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo (NY), on the occasion of Rev. Rita's ordination on June 10, 2018.

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: "All of Us Are Beautiful" by the Rev. Thomas Rhodes, a retired Unitarian Universalist minister
[All of Us Are Beautiful | WorshipWeb | UUA.org](#) Read on video by Susan Stevens Chambers.

Music Video: "[Nothing but] Flowers" by Talking Heads, an American rock band active from 1975-1991
[\(2\) Talking Heads - \(Nothing but\) Flowers - YouTube](#)

Reading: "Blessing for Flower Communion" by the Rev. Michael DeVernon Boblett, a retired pagan Unitarian Universalist minister
[Blessing for Flower Communion | WorshipWeb | UUA.org](#) Read on video by Susan Stevens Chambers.

Closing Words

Hymn: #305 "De Colores" (gray hymnal) sung by Helen Lowry, accompanied by Jon Vogtle, both courtesy of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo (NY). This hymn is a Mexican folk song originally written in Spanish. We can read more about its origins and the history of UU use at
[STLT#305, De Colores – Notes from the Far Fringe](#)

We Move into the Larger World with Renewed Commitment

Chalice Extinguishing with Dee Ann Nelson

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.