

“There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the earth.”—Jelaluddin Rumi, 13th Century
Persian poet and Islamic mystic

Order of Service for September 12, 2021: What Makes Surviving the Pandemic Possible?

Rev. Rita Capezzi, preaching
Zoom Host: Macey Forsyth
Tech Squad: Andy Roberts and Jeff Lowry

We Gather and Invite

Opening Slides: Welcome to UUFM Worship; Centering Quotation and Service Title; Still to Come. . .
After Worship; Announcements; Invitation to type Joys and Sorrows into the Chat (Chat will close after the Giving Slide) to “Higher Ground” by Stevie Wonder and performed by Helen Lowry and members of the Buffalo, NY-based band The Bitter Nasties.

Bell Chime

Call to Worship: “When the Pandemic is Not Over” adapted from words by the Rev. Shari Woodbury, Unitarian Universalist minister serving First Unitarian Church of Omaha.

Welcome

Special Announcements

We Center Ourselves to Worship/Shape Worth

Chalice Lighting: 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.

Story: *The Hugging Tree* written by Jennifer Neimark and illustrated by Nicole Wong. Read on video by Director of Children’s Faith Development Macey Forsyth [The Hugging Tree - YouTube](#)

Ritual: What Has Kept Us Going During the Pandemic? From our Soul Matters Sharing Circles exploration, images from *Future Archaeology of a Global Lockdown* a photo project by Paula Zuccotti, a London-based Argentine industrial designer, ethnographer, trends forecaster, creative strategist and visual artist.

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: Words adapted from the Rev. Anna Blaedel, openly queer Methodist Minister from Iowa City, who endured denominational trial for their sexuality and whose case was resolved in their favor after more than a year, though the Methodist Church remains poised for a split.

Bell Chime

Sorrows and Joys

Singing Prayer: To the tune of #1002 (teal hymnal) by Mimi Borstein. Sung and accompanied by Jeff Lowry.

We Take a Deeper Dive

Reading: “The Low Road” by Marge Piercy (b. 1936), white American progressive activist and writer

Homily: What Makes Surviving the Pandemic Possible?

Hymn: #1015 “I Know I Can” (teal hymnal), with vocals by the Rev. Suzelle Lynch and accompaniment by Jennifer Nicolosi, Lead Music Director , both of the Unitarian Universalist Church West of Brookfield, WI. [Hymn #1015 - "I Know I Can" - YouTube](#)

We Move into the Larger World with Renewed Commitment

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.

Congregational Greeting (everyone is invited to unmute)

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