

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs

Creating a Community of Love for Justice and Peace

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs is a Welcoming Community that embraces people of any age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, ability, language, or cultural background. We extend a warm welcome to all who worship here today, especially those who are visiting for the first time. Following the service, please join us for refreshments and conversation at the back of the Sanctuary. We hope this community can be a place of meaning, inspiration, celebration, and joy for you and your family.

The Other Jesus

Sunday, October 19, 2025

CHIMES AND WELCOME

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CHALICE

"No one lights a lamp to put it under a bowl, but on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light..." Let this light be a message that burns bright to all who come here today.

*OPENING HYMN

No. 38, Morning Has Broken

*OUR COVENANT

*Love is the doctrine of this faith,
The quest for truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve human need,
To the end that all souls shall grow into
harmony with the Divine.
Thus do we covenant with one another
and love beyond belief.*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Be ours a religion
Which like sunshine goes everywhere,
Its temple, all space; its shrine, the good heart,
Its creed, all truth; its ritual, works of love.*

STORY

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

*For we shall go out in joy, (2x)
And come back in peace. (2x)
Blessed be.*

RESPONSIVE READING

No. 621 Why A Star by Margaret Gooding

REFLECTION

The Other Jesus

MEDITATION

The words of Barbara Pescan

SHARING OF JOYS & SORROWS

Stones & Water Ritual

Hymn No. 123, Spirit of Life

Prayers of the People

Response: *There is a love holding you.*

Closing Response

Leader: May we all know that we are not alone
as we hold one another in our hearts.

All: *There is a love holding me,*

There is a love holding you,

There is a love holding all.

We rest in this love.

OFFERTORY

Offertory Music

Offertory Words

We Give by Kristin Collins

When you text (518-333-9140) or go online (uusaratoga.org/donate) to donate, please be sure to select the appropriate fund for your donation.

Your donation made to the Give Away the Plate fund during the month of October supports LifeWorks.

*CLOSING HYMN

No. 2, Down The Ages We Have Trod

*BENEDICTION

Words of Rev. Tom Owen-Towle, UU Minister

*EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

*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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Service Participants:

Rev. Nikki William, Service Lead
Barbara Floeser, Worship Coordinator
Barbara Floeser, Former Board Member
Marian Bigelow, Care Team
Judith Thomas, Music Director
Jolene Crowley, flutist

Thanks Also To:

Our Hospitality and Tech Support Teams

OPENING HYMN No. 38, Morning Has Broken

*Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the word*

*Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass*

*Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day*

RESPONSIVE READING No. 621

They told me that when Jesus was born a star
appeared in the heavens above the place where
the young child lay.

All: *When I was very young I had no trouble
believing wondrous things; I believed in the star.*

It was a wonderful miracle, part of a long ago
story, foretelling an uncommon life.

All: *They told me a super nova appear
ed in the heavens in its dying burst of fire.*

When I was older and believed in science and
reason I believed the story of the star explained.

All: *But I found I was unwilling to give up the
star, fitting symbol for the birth of one whose
uncommon life has been long remembered.*

The star explained became the star understood,
for Jesus, for Buddha, for Zarathustra.

All: *Why not a star? Some bright star shines
somewhere in the heavens each time a child is
born.*

Who knows what it may foretell?

All: *Who knows what uncommon life may yet
again unfold, if we but give it a chance?*

STONES & WATER HYMN No. 123, Spirit of Life, (2x)

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart

All the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;

Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free;

Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

CLOSING HYMN No. 2, Down The Ages We Have Trod

*Down the ages we have trod
many paths in search of God,
seeking ever to define
the Eternal and Divine.*

*Some have seen eternal good
pictured best in Parenthood,
and a Being throned above
ruling over us in love.
There are others who proclaim
God and Nature are the same,
and the present Godhead own
where Creation's laws are known.*

*There are eyes which best can see
God within humanity,
and God's countenance there trace
written in the human face.*

*Where compassion is most found
is for some the hallowed ground,
and these paths they upward plod
teaching us that love is God.*

*Though the truth we can't perceive
this at least we must believe,
what we take most earnestly
is our living Deity.*

*Our true God we there shall find
in what claims our heart and mind,
and our hidden thoughts enshrine
that which for us is Divine.*