

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.

Crossing The River - Tolerance is not an idea, it's a lived practice.

Sunday, November 16, 2025

CHIMES AND WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Be Thou my Vision"; Irish Traditional,
Arr. by Thomas Quigley

LIGHTING THE CHALICE

The words of Craig Rowland
*I breathe in the warmth of this light, its glow
filling the spaces where fear and doubt reside.
I breathe out the tension I carry. I release what
no longer serves me.
I breathe in the strength of our community, a
sanctuary of diverse voices and shared purpose.
I breathe out the urge to go it alone. I embrace
the power of togetherness.
I breathe in the courage to speak truth, even
when it trembles on my lips.
I breathe out the silence that holds me back. I
make space for honesty and justice.
I breathe in the hope of transformation,
knowing we are here to build and to heal.
I breathe out despair, trusting that change is
born in small acts of love.
As we light this chalice, may each breath
remind us of the sacred rhythm of life, the pulse
of creation, and the power we hold to shape the
world around us.*

*OPENING HYMN

No. 1008, When Our Heart Is In A Holy
Place

*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

*From all that dwells below the skies
Let songs of hope and faith arise
Let peace, good will on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.*

STORY

The Way to Start a Day by Byrd Baylor

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

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

READING

UNESCO, United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization,
International Day For Tolerance language

REFLECTION

OFFERTORY

Offertory Music: "Lift Up A Sacred Prayer" by
James Stevens

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 November
supports the Saratoga Immigration Coalition.

MEDITATION

John O'Donohue, Eternal Echoes: Celtic
Reflections on Our Yearning to Belong

SHARING OF JOYS & SORROWS

Stones & Water Ritual Hymn No.16, Tis A
Gift To Be Simple
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.*

***CLOSING HYMN**

No. 326, Let All The Beauty We Have Known

***CLOSING WORDS**

***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:

Melissa O'Brien, Guest Speakers
Lucy Manning, Worship Associate
Bill Boehmke, Board Member
Tari Lee Muth, Care Team
Jolene Crowley, flutist
Judith Thomas, Music Director

Thanks Also To:

Our Hospitality and Tech Support Teams

OPENING HYMN #1008, When Our Heart Is
In A Holy Place

Chorus:

*When our heart is in a holy place, when our heart
is in a holy place,
We are bless'd with love and amazing grace, when
our heart is in a holy place.*

*When we trust the wisdom in each of us, ev'ry color
ev'ry creed and kind,
And we see our faces in each other's eyes, then our
heart is in a holy place.*

Chorus

*When we tell our story from deep inside, and we
listen with a loving mind,
And we hear our voices in each other's words, then
our heart is in a holy place.*

Chorus

*When we share the silence of sacred space, and the
God of our Heart stirs within,
And we feel the power of each other's faith, then
our heart is in a holy place.*

Chorus

STONES & WATER #16, 'Tis A Gift To Be
Simple

*'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free,
'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

*When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.*

*To turn, turn will be our delight,
'till by turning, turning we come 'round right.*

CLOSING HYMN #326, Let All The Beauty
We Have Known

*Let all the beauty we have known illuminate our
hearts and minds.*

*Rejoice in wonders daily shown, in faith and joy,
and love that binds.*

*We celebrate with singing hearts the loveliness of
sky and earth,
the inspiration of the arts, the miracle of ev'ry
birth.*

*Life's music and its poetry surround and bless us
through our days.*

*For these we sing in harmony, together giving
thanks and praise.*

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Saratoga Springs**

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**Only that day
dawns to which
we are awake.**

—Henry David Thoreau