

# 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.

## Finding Our Way Through Perilous Times

Sunday, September 28, 2025

### CHIMES AND WELCOME

*Its creed, all truth; its ritual, works of love.*

### PRELUDE

“Meditation on Breathing”

Words and music: Sarah Dan Jones

### LIGHTING THE CHALICE

Words of Gary Kowalski

### \*OPENING HYMN

No. 119 “Once to Every Soul and Nation”

### \*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,*

### STORY

*The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch

### CHILDREN’S RECESSIONAL

*For we shall go out in joy, (2x)*

*And come back in peace. (2x)*

*Blessed be.*

### READING

“On Gerontocracy” by Helen Lewis

### REFLECTION

The words of Rev. John Fisher

### ANTHEM

“We Will Be a Shelter For Each Other”

By Alan Pote

### OFFERTORY

#### Offertory Music

“Canyons” by Alexis Ffrench

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### MEDITATION

“Out of the Flames” by Sara Eileen Wall

### SHARING OF JOYS & SORROWS

#### Stones & Water Ritual

Hymn No. 1007 “There’s a River Flowin’ in My Soul”

#### 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. 170 We Are a Gentle, Angry People

### \*CLOSING WORDS

Ephesians 6:13

### BENEDICTION

“Step Boldly Out” by Wayne Norman Cochran

### \*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. John Fisher, Service Leader

Wayne Cochran, Worship Associate

Bill Boemhke, Board Member

Elizabeth Collins, Care Team

Music Carol Ann Elze, Choir Director

**Thanks Also To:** Our Hospitality and Tech  
Support Teams

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Saratoga Springs

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**May the long time sun  
shine upon you, all love  
surround you, and the  
pure light within you  
guide your way on.**

—Mike Heron

OPENING HYMN No. 119, Once to Every  
Soul and Nation

*Once to every soul and nation comes the  
moment to decide,  
in the strife of truth with falsehood, for the  
good or evil side:  
then to stand with truth is noble, when we  
share its wretched crust;  
ere that cause bring fame and profit, and 'tis  
prosperous to be just.*

*Though the cause of evil prosper, yet 'tis truth  
alone is strong;  
though its portion be the scaffold, and upon  
the throne be wrong.  
Then it is the brave one chooses, while the  
coward stands aside,  
till the multitude make virtue of the faith they  
have denied.*

STONES & WATER HYMN No. 1007,

*There's a River Flowin' In My Soul  
There's a river flowin' in my soul.  
There's a river flowin' in my soul.  
And it's tellin' me that I'm somebody.  
There's a river flowin' in my soul.*

*There's a river flowin' in my heart...  
There's a river flowin' in my mind...*

CLOSING HYMN No. 170, We Are A Gentle  
Angry People

*We are a gentle, angry people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a gentle, angry people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a justice-seeking people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a justice-seeking people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are young and old together  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are young and old together  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a land of many colors  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a land of many colors  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are gay and straight together  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are gay and straight together  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a gentle, loving people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a gentle, loving people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives*