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

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

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 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.

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

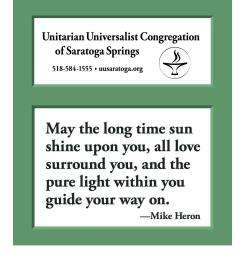
We extinguish this flame, But not the light of truth, The warmth of community, Or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts Until we are together again.

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



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