

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs



Our new home

## Pondering the Art of Religion

“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science.” — Albert Einstein

Sunday, April 12, 2026

### CHIMES

### PRELUDE

Mazurka in A minor. F. Chopin, Op. 118 (excerpt)

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING THE CHALICE Words by Sangya Hawke

*With the lighting of this flame,  
Let us grow the radiance of joy;  
With the lighting of this flame let us spark the brilliance of hope;  
With the lighting of this flame let us shine upon the hearts of all  
those who suffer,  
Who yearn, and who crave the joyful noise of community—  
All Beings, not one left behind.*

### OUR COVENANT

*Love is the doctrine of this faith,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
The quest for truth is its sacrament,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
And service is its prayer.<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
To dwell together in peace,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
To seek knowledge in freedom, to serve human need,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
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,<sup>[[SEP]]</sup>  
Its creed all truth, its ritual works of love.*

## **OPENING HYMN**

No. 108, My Life Flows on in Endless Song

## **STORY**

“Old Turtle,” by Douglas Wood, watercolors by Cheng-Khee Chee

## **CHILDREN’S RECESSIONAL**

*For we shall go out in joy  
And come back in peace  
Blessed be.*

## **STONES AND WATER RITUAL**

Hymn No. 123, Spirit of Life

## **JOYS AND SORROWS**

*All: There is a love holding us,  
There is a love holding you,  
There is a love holding all.  
We rest in this love.*

**READING** Words of Madeline L’Engle

**OFFERING** Words of Alice Anacheka-Nasemann

Music: Conclusion of Mazurka in A Minor, F. Chopin

## **REFLECTION AND MEDITATION**

“The heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing.”

Blaise Pascal

## **CLOSING HYMN**

No. 34, Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

## **CLOSING WORDS**

By Iris Murdoch and, then by Adam Slate

## **EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE**

*We extinguish this flame to remind us:  
Love is the center.  
As we explore and rest, engage and heal:  
Love is our center.  
When only ashes remain:  
Love endures.*

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Service Participants**

Rev. John Fisher, Guest Speaker  
Richard Wilkinson, Worship Associate  
Tari Lee Muth, Care Team  
Judith Thomas, pianist

A special thank you to our Tech and Hospitality Teams.

**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.

We hope this community can be a place of meaning, inspiration, celebration and joy for you and your family.