

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs



Our new home

## The Commencement Speech I Have Yet To Be Invited To Deliver

Sunday, May 3, 2026

### CHIMES

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING BLESSING

### PRELUDE

Gaudeamus Hodie (Let Us Rejoice Today),  
words and music by Natalie Sleeth

### LIGHTING THE CHALICE

We light this flame as humans have lit fires since the beginning,  
gathering in community to share warmth, to ask questions, to share  
stories and to build community.

Outside, the world is waking up again after a winter's slumber.  
May we feel the same awakening in our hearts and souls.

### OPENING HYMN

No. 360, Here We Have Gathered

### 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,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
Its creed all truth, its ritual works of love.*

## **A STORY FOR ALL AGES**

### **CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL**

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

## **SERMON**

## **SILENT REFLECTION**

### **OFFERING**

Music: "Here Comes the Sun" words and music by George  
Harrison, arr. by Matt and Adam Podd

### **STONES AND WATER RITUAL**

Music: Tomorrow Song " piano solo by Alexis Ffrench

### **JOYS AND SORROWS**

*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. 311, Let It Be A Dance

## **BENEDICTION**

### **READING**

"Leisure" by William Henry Davies

### **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*

### **Service Participants**

Melissa O'Brien, Interim Pastor  
Linda Giancola, Worship Associate  
Elizabeth Collins, Care Team  
Carol Ann Elze, Choir Director

A special thank you to our Tech and Hospitality Teams.