

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs



Soon to be our new home, 400 Loudon Road

## The Deserts In Our Lives, Their Meaning and Purpose

Sunday, March 1, 2026

### CHIMES

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

“Voice Still and Small” words and music John Corrado

### LIGHTING THE CHALICE

*We light this chalice as we begin our time together.* [L] [SEP]

*Let's release what we've been holding and rest in this space for this  
hour as we contemplate the deserts of our lives and  
the meaning they hold.* [L] [SEP]

*Let this small flame remind us that even sparse places hold life.* [L] [SEP]

*We remain open to the mystery.*

### OPENING HYMN

No. 1000, Morning Has Come

### OUR COVENANT

*Love is the doctrine of this faith,* [L] [SEP]

*The quest for truth is its sacrament,* [L] [SEP]

*And service is its prayer.* [L] [SEP]

*To dwell together in peace,* [L] [SEP]

*To seek knowledge in freedom,* [L] [SEP] *To serve human need,* [L] [SEP]

*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,  
[SEP]Its temple all space, its shrine the good heart,[SEP]  
Its creed all truth, its ritual works of love*

## **CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL**

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

## **SERMON**

## **SILENT REFLECTION**

## **OFFERING**

**Offertory Music:** "Keep Your Lamps" trad; arr.  
by Victor C. Johnson  
The Give Away The Plate Recipient for March is Saratoga Pride

## **STONES AND WATER RITUAL**

Music: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," piano solo

## **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.*

## **CLOSING HYMN**

No. 1054, Let This Be a House of Peace

## **BENEDICTION**

Dust of Snow by Robert Frost

## **EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE**

*We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth,[SEP]  
The warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.[SEP]  
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again*

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**