

ORDER OF SERVICE

May 18, 2025

Prelude *A Flower Remembered* John Rutter

Choral Introit

Call to Celebration

Opening Hymn* “Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers”
No. 63 [STLT]

Chalice Lighting

Unison Affirmation

Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest for truth its sacrament,
And service 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 each other and with God.

Community Joys and Concerns

Senior Recognition Jackson Gatlin, Alex Shiloh

Sung Response “Go Now in Peace” No. 413 [STLT]

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Welcome and Invitation to Engagement

Introduction to the Offering Misha Gerson

Offertory *To a Water-Lily*, Op. 51, No. 6 Edward MacDowell

Our 50/50 split for this month will benefit **HAWC** (Healing Abuse Working for Change), a nonprofit organization that offers free and confidential support, advocacy, shelter, and education to survivors of domestic abuse. Find out more at hawcdv.org.

We share our Sunday morning offering each month with an organization that is dedicated to alleviating human suffering or oppression. The collection will benefit both the church and organization:

- *all loose cash in the collection plates will be split on a 50/50 basis between the church and the organization*
- *checks payable to the church will go only to the church—and toward your pledge—unless otherwise designated (e.g. writing “50/50” on the memo line)*
- *all checks payable to the organization will go to the organization*

ECCO Affordable Housing Effort Martha Curry, Scott Nowka

Introduction to the Flower Communion

Reading *Flower Communion Prayer* Norbert Capek

Choral Anthem “Cantan las flores” Michael D. Mendoza

*The flowers on the prairies are singing. They are singing songs of joy.
Blue, yellow, and red flowers, all the flowers.*

*Sad flowers don't cry with little tears. Sing. The clouds bring the rain.
Sing. Laud and sing to the sun.*

The flowers are dancing. Flowers, dance in the wind.

Homily “Nothing But Green”

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

Responsive Reading

Flowers unfold slowly and gently, bit by bit in the sunshine.

A soul, too, must never be pushed or driven but unfolds

In its own perfect timing to reveal its true wonder and beauty.

Our work is to be gardeners of souls, wherever we are.

Everywhere, seeds are beginning to germinate. Let us tend them with the greatest care. They are very tender and delicate.

Let us water them with love.

Flower Communion

Closing Hymn* "Love Will Guide Us" No. 131 [STLT]

Benediction The congregation responds: *Amen!*

Postlude *To a Yellow Rose* Florence Price

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Worship Leader

Kenneth Griffith II, Director of Music

David Collins, Keyboard

The UUCGL Choir

Doreen Hodgkin, Usher

Scott Nowka, Livestream Camera Operator

Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall (to your right as you exit the Sanctuary) after the service.

NOTE: Because of rising costs, organic fair trade food items from Equal Exchange will only be for sale at coffee hour until all inventory is sold out. Stop by the table and check out what's left — everything is marked down!

JOIN US!

(Visit uucgl.org for more information and additional announcements.)

Path to Membership: Foundations of Unitarian Universalism

Today | 11:15am | Fellowship Room

For those who are interested in formally joining the church, this orientation introduces you to the history and heritage of Unitarian Universalism.

Childcare will be provided.

Community Conversations

Today | 11:15am | Fellowship Room

Let's continue the important conversations about UUCGL's future! A board member will be available to discuss the recently shared Transition Plan.

"Drumagic" Community Drum Circle

Sunday, May 18 | 1:30-3:30pm | Sanctuary

Sunday Evening Meditations

Sunday, May 18 | 5:15-6pm | Sanctuary

Tai Chi Class (Beginner) & Qigong Class ALL AGES & ABILITIES WELCOME

Tuesday, May 20 | 9am & 10am | Parish Hall

Meal Making for My Brother's Table VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Tuesday, May 20 | 1pm | Parish Hall

Help make some meals for My Brother's Table! Join us to help those in need.

On Tyranny: Action Support Group REGISTER AT UUCGL.ORG FOR ZOOM LINK

Tuesday, May 20 | 7:30-8:45pm | on Zoom

Do you want to move from concern to action and get more involved doing the work of protecting our democracy and local community from the threats of our current administration? Join us to get trained and equipped for effective action.

Dialogue Group

Tuesday, May 27 | 5-6pm | Zoom

Massachusetts Monarchs: A Summer Resident's Remarkable Story

Wednesday, May 28 | 7pm | Sanctuary

Join us for a free presentation on the fascinating natural history of Monarch butterflies and learn how to enhance a habitat in your own backyard! This event is hosted jointly with Swampscott Conservancy. Please RSVP via email to info@swampscottconservancy.org so you can be notified in the event of cancellation.

End-of-Year Church BBQ Picnic

Sunday, June 1 | 11am | Parish Hall

All are invited to join us for food & fun. This event will take place rain or shine.

Saturday Craft Circle

Saturday, June 7 | 10am-2pm | Skylight Room

North Shore Pride Parade & Festival SAVE THE DATE TO MARCH WITH US!

Saturday, June 28 | Salem