

ORDER OF SERVICE
Palm Sunday ~ April 2, 2023

Prelude *Prelude No. 4 in C# minor* J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Ingathering Chime

Introit *Eia Mater* G.B. Pergolesi
Trudi Olivetti, soloist

*O Mother, fountain of love,
Make me feel the power of sorrow,
That I may grieve with you.*

Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn "O Young and Fearless Prophet" No. 276 [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.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Community Joys and Sorrows

Prayer

Hymn "Voice Still and Small" No. 391 [STLT]

Offertory

Candles of Hope and Healing

You are invited to come forward and light a candle.

Reading From *God Of the Oppressed* James H. Cone

Anthem *Agnus Dei* from "Missa Festiva" John Leavitt

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Grant us peace.*

Sermon "The Unholy Trinity: Shame, Blame and Violence"
Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

Musical Reflection *Ave Verum Corpus* W.A. Mozart

Sending Forth Sayings of Jesus from the Gospel of John, NRSV

Benediction

Congregational Response: *Amen*

Invitation to Communion

Recessional to Fellowship Hour

Please come forward to the first rows for the Communion Service or exit quietly to the Parish Hall.

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Parish Minister
Kenneth Griffith II, Director of Music
David Collins, Keyboard
The UUCGL Choir
Jason Gatlin, Livestream Service

WE ARE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

that gathers to explore deeper truths together,
to support one another through the complexities and struggles
of daily life, and to serve the greater good by becoming
more compassionate in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Join with us to cultivate reverence, peacefulness,
and an ethic of loving engagement with the world.

We are so glad that you're here today,
whether you are a devoted member or a new visitor.

We hope to be a spiritual community
you will consider becoming part of.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Our choir members are going mask-optional for the first time in three years, choosing to test regularly and stay home if presenting any symptoms of illness. We recommend that all members of the community continue to use testing, masking and quarantining to mitigate the spread of Covid and other infectious diseases. The front side of the sanctuary opposite the choir is reserved for those who would like to continue to practice social distancing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit uucgl.org for more information and additional announcements.

Poetry Writing Workshop

Today | 11:30am

Our Art & Spirituality series continues! Award-winning resident poet, Clem Schoenebeck, will lead this workshop. Read more about Clem on our website.

Vernal Ponds Presentation & Live Animal Exhibit

Monday, April 3 | 6:30pm

Join us for a free, family-friendly event to learn about vernal ponds and the wildlife that depends on them. Space is limited: please register at uucgl.org

Spring Tai Chi Classes

Tuesdays, 11am (Beginner) | April 4-June 27

Fridays, 11am (Intermediate) | April 7-June 30

Starting next week! If you missed it the first time around, here's your chance to take a beginner's class. Register at uucgl.org/taichi (space is limited).

Dialogue Group

Wednesday, April 5 | 8-9pm | Zoom

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 9 | 11am

Wisdom Circle

Wednesday, April 12 | 12-1:30pm

Sunday Evening Meditation

Sunday, April 23 | 4-5pm

Every other Sunday through June 4, you are invited to take a little time out of your week for restorative silence and reconnection. No prior experience is required. Register at uucgl.org if you haven't joined us for meditation before.

Ferry Beach Weekend Retreat for All Ages

REGISTER BY TOMORROW!

April 28-April 30 (Friday night is optional)

Come to our all-church all-ages weekend retreat at Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine! See our website for more information and how to register before the 4/3 deadline. *We do not want finances to prevent anyone from experiencing this wonderful weekend: please reach out to Rev. Chris to request a campership to help with the costs.*

Cooks in the UUCGL Kitchen

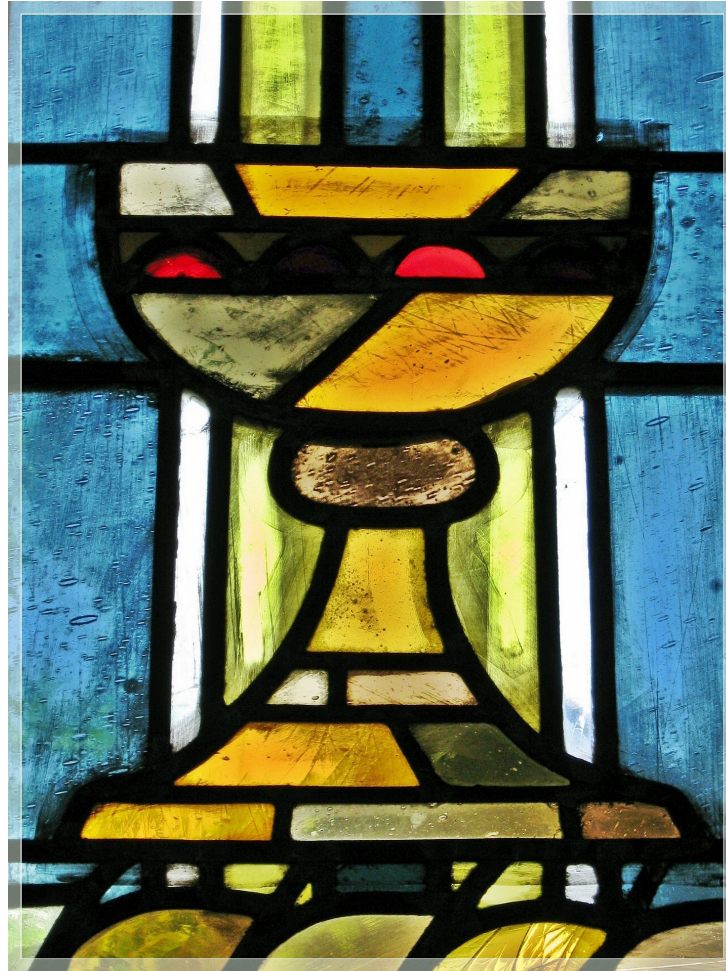
Join us to explore how cooking plant-based meals together lowers the cost, promotes health, serves the planet, and...grows community. Use the QR code at right to be contacted about joining!



A reminder: after the service, Fair Trade food items will be available for purchase during Fellowship Hour.

COMMUNION SERVICE

Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein



Words of Invitation

MINISTER: Welcome around the table that welcomes all. We gather because we need community. We gather because we need to be nourished not only by bread, but by faith, hope and love. We gather to remember Jesus, who instituted this ritual, and who infused the earthly elements of grape, flour and water with his love and life force.

We gather around the table in fellowship with the original community of friends who gathered with Jesus the night before his death. They met in an Upper Room, in southern section of the Old City of Jerusalem

Jesus had spoken of the God who wants to save the world; of the cross that must be carried; of the cup that must be emptied; and of the joy awaiting the faithful.

CELEBRANT: He spoke of the sacrifice that he knew he would be making: Of the communion in his love, stronger than death.

He broke the bread, and he poured the wine.

In doing so, he put his own life force into the both of these.

Those who had joined the meal knew the significance of his actions.

They understood the darkness of betrayal; they began to understand what profoundly self-sacrificing love would look like.

The meal of matzoh and wine is the communion in this love we behold in Jesus and in which we share through him.

We share this Communion with all those who long to follow Jesus, not just across space but across time. We celebrate Communion with all those across the globe who observe this ritual, and we celebrate with those who have done so in the past, and those who will do so in the future. For love knows no boundary of time or place, and God is with us at all times and in every location.

MINISTER: Friends, this table has been set for you. Whoever you are, whatever your theology, whatever your fears and failings, this is a reconciling table. We come around it always as beloved children of God, and completely equal, each capable of sin and brokenness and each capable of grace and wholeness.

Now we ask ourselves these questions, observing a moment of silence between the questions:

ALL: Do I heed the commandment to love my neighbor as myself? Where may I extend more compassion on a daily basis?

[Silent reflection]

ALL: Do I love the God of my understanding with all my heart, my soul, my mind and my strength? What does that look like in my daily life?

[Silent reflection]

ALL: Can I make more space in my heart for healing, forgiving others and myself where possible and trusting in God's love for all? What would that look like in my daily life?

(Feel free to speak into the silence any commitments you feel called to make to manifest Holy Love in our world.)

Prayers of the Community

MINISTER: Gracious God, we your people are drawn together out of a desire to be people of peace, people of the heart. We come together not in unity of belief or of understanding but unity of desire, a shared yearning for the life more abundant Jesus promised us. We are relatives of his original community of followers: confused, frightened and flawed, hungering and thirsting after freedom from the competitive striving of the world. We seek here healing. We desire the presence of Divine Wisdom for all peoples and all nations.

Hear the prayers of our hearts, for a world at peace, nations at peace, communities at peace, and individuals at peace. Lead us to nonviolent resolution of all our conflicts, neighbor to neighbor, nation to nation.

ALL: Spirit of Peace, hear our prayer.

CELEBRANT: God, hear our prayers for our Earth, for all those inanimate and speechless aspects of creation. Make us humble and careful stewards of Earth, mindful of our responsibility to cherish this precious and fragile world in the short time we each have to live in it.

ALL: Spirit of Creation, hear our prayer.

CELEBRANT: Hear our ardent prayers for justice, remind us to heed those who feel they have no gifts and are not valued, help us to respect and to serve those who are considered powerless by the world's standards, and to live out the good news that every soul is precious and equal in the divine sight.

ALL: Compassionate One, hear our prayer.

CELEBRANT: Hear our prayers for all the nations at war, for the victims of war. Be with them in their suffering. Deliver us from evil.

ALL: God of Justice, have mercy on us.

MINISTER: God, we know you as a healer and we ask your blessing upon those whose names are lifted up among us now, either aloud or silently.

(You are invited to name aloud or silently those people you would like to remember in healing prayer)

Ever-present and eternal Spirit,
hear the prayers and praises of your people.
Help us to live in hope, to build your community,
and to be vessels of grace to all.

Let us pray together, as Jesus taught us:

ALL:

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

CELEBRANT: May we be joined now in the memory and love of one who promised to be with us unto the end of time. In this meal of fellowship and unity, we make a thanksgiving of our lives. As we share the bread and grape, may the holiness at the heart of being make itself known to us through it, and illuminating the truth that we are One in the divine sight.

🌀 The Communion 🌀

MINISTER: Here is the bread of life, food for the spirit!

COMMUNITY: Let all who hunger come and eat.

MINISTER: Here is the fruit of the vine, pressed and poured out for us.

COMMUNITY: Let all who thirst now come and drink.

MINISTER: During his last earthly meal with his beloved community, Jesus took the unleavened bread of Passover, and after he had blessed it and broke it, he gave it to all seated at the table, and said, “This is my body which is given for you. Share this, and as often as you do, do so in memory of me.”

Let this bread be a symbol to us of the brokenness in ourselves, in others,

and in the world. In sharing the broken bread, we acknowledge our dependence on the earth, and our unity with all people. Let us be fed and renewed in spirit; mindful of the ways that we are nourished by the Holy which is present everywhere.

Also during his last meal, we are told that Jesus took the cup of wine and said, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.” Christ is here, pouring through our lives.

Let this cup be a symbol to us of the power of love which triumphs over violence. Through sharing the fruit of the vine, let us encounter the outpouring of selfless love manifested by Jesus.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

🌀 Distribution of the Elements 🌀

This is the bread of life.

This is the cup of love.

🌀 Sending Forth 🌀

MINISTER: Let us pray.

Loving God,
Thank you for loving us and being present to us in our brokenness. Where we are broken, may we be healed; where we are distanced from life’s beauty, may we be awakened to the sacred; where we are weak in the presence of evil, may we be strengthened; where we are divided, may we be brought into one spirit of goodwill.
Let your peace possess our souls, O God.

COMMUNITY: We are called now to continued love and devotion. May we walk the path of compassion and justice.

🌀 Benediction 🌀

MINISTER: May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, and which the world can neither give nor take away, be with us now and abide in our hearts forever. May the spirit of Jesus be within us and among us, as we walk with him the path of healing, justice, radical hospitality and love.

🌀 Passing of the Peace 🌀

Peace be with you.