

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday, April 16, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

"Falling In Love With Being Together - Why We 'Do Church'"

Presenters: February Sky (Phil Cooper & Susan Urban)

*Please feel free to sing at home at any point in the service
where you feel moved to do so!*

Words to all the songs and readings, including congregational songs,
are on the pages following this one.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MUSIC: "Won't You Come on In," by Zoe Mulford

OPENING WORDS by Greta Vosper, a minister for the United Church of Canada, and a self-declared atheist

CHALICE LIGHTING (unison) (see below)

***OPENING HYMN:** "We Laugh, We Cry," #354 (or see insert)

JOYS & CONCERNS

INTERGENERATIONAL MOMENT: "Let's Talk," by Zoe Mulford

SINGING THE CHILDREN OUT

UNISON OFFERTORY READING

OFFERTORY MUSIC: "Roslyn Castle," Trad. Arr.

SONG: "His Name Is Andrew," by David Ackles

HOMILY 1: The Longing for Belonging

SONG: "We Can Sleep Tomorrow," by Susan Urban

HOMILY 2: Church Outside of Church

***CLOSING CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** "Precious Friend You Will Be There," by Pete Seeger

CLOSING WORDS by Kenneth L. Patton (unison)

MUSIC FOR CLOSING: "Here's a Health to the Company / The Parting Glass," Trad. Arr.

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE (unison)

***Rise in body or in spirit**

WON'T YOU COME ON IN

Zoe Mulford

CHORUS:

Won't you come on in, won't you come sit down,
It's been too long since I've seen you 'round.
Tell me something new, tell me how you've been,
I've got a song or two I want to sing with you, won't you come on in?
Have a cup of tea, have a glass of wine,
Have a drink of water, it'll all be fine!
Won't you share some bread, won't you share some time,
Won't you share some space in a peaceful place
Where the folks are fine?

CHORUS

Bring your favorite song, bring your famous pie.
Bring a bunch of flowers to delight the eye.
If you're bearing a grudge, you can leave it behind.
Bring what's on the shelf or just bring yourself
And your heart and mind.

CHORUS

You can come as you are, you can just be you,
You can come as a stranger – we're a little strange too!
You can come as a guest, you can leave as a friend,
I wish you all the best, may your steps be blessed
'Til you come again.

CHORUS

I've got a song or two I want to sing with you, won't you come on in?

CHALICE LIGHTING READING (unison)

If you are proud of this church, become its advocate.
If you are concerned for its future, share its message.
If its values resonate deep within you,
Give it a measure of your devotion.
This church cannot survive without your faith,
Your confidence, your enthusiasm.
Its destiny, the larger hope, rests in your hands.

We laugh, we cry, we live, we die, we dance, we sing our song.
We need to feel there's something here to which we can belong.
We need to feel the freedom just to have some time alone.
But most of all we need close friends we can call our very own.

And we believe in life, and in the strength of love;
And we have found a need to be together.
We have our hearts to give, we have our thoughts to receive;
And we believe that sharing is an answer.

A child is born among us and we feel a special glow.
We see time's endless journey as we watch the baby grow.
We thrill to hear imagination freely running wild.
We dedicate our minds and hearts to the spirit of this child.

And we believe in life, and in the strength of love;
And we have found a time to be together.
And with the grace of age, we share the wonder of youth;
And we believe that growing is an answer.

Our lives are full of wonder and our time is very brief.
The death of one among us fills us all with pain and grief.
But as we live, so shall we die and when our lives are done
The memories we shared with friends, they will linger on and on.

And we believe in life, and in the strength of love;
And we have found a place to be together.
We have the right to grow, we have the gift to believe;
That peace within our living is an answer.

We seek elusive answers to the questions of this life.
We seek to put an end to all the waste of human strife.
We search for truth, equality, and blessed peace of mind.
And then, we come together here, to make sense of what we find.

And we believe in life, and in the strength of love;
And we have found a joy being together.
And in our search for peace, maybe we'll finally see,
Even to question, truly, is an answer.

Let's talk, let's have a little talk, let's have a little heart-to-heart,
Maybe a talk about talks about talks, if that's where it has to start.
'Cause Jane's not talking to Judy, and Judy's not talking to Paul,
If things go on like this around here, won't be nobody talking at all.

Now Sam's not talking to Sarah, Sarah's not talking to Zeke,
I don't know who Becky's not talking to,
It depends on the day of the week.

And Amy made up with Eliza, now neither one's talking to Jake,
And I hear Hank was unguardedly frank
And then hit Reply All by mistake.

Let's talk, let's have a little talk, let's have a little heart-to-heart,
Maybe a talk about talks about talks, if that's where it has to start.
'Cause Ben's not talking to Brenda, and Brenda's not talking to Paul,
If things go on like this around here, won't be nobody talking at all.

Now, nobody cares much for Carol, but she sure gets things done!
And nobody's too keen on Kevin, but he's been around since day one.
And Monica looked like a winner until that whole business with Mike.

These people can be like a family to me, but there isn't a one that I like.

Let's talk, let's have a little talk, let's have a little heart-to-heart,
Maybe a talk about talks about talks, if that's where it has to start.
'Cause Mark's not talking to Marsha, and Marsha's not talking to Paul
If things go on like this around here, won't be nobody talking at all.

Now Anne's not talking to Ahmed, Ahmed's not talking to Lee,
Nobody's talking to anyone much, but they all come complaining to me.
So I've started talking to strangers 'cause it's safer than talking to friends.

I'm thinking of walking and maybe not talking to anyone ever again.

Let's talk, let's have a little talk, let's have a little heart-to-heart,
Maybe a talk about talks about talks, if that's where it has to start.
'Cause Jane's not talking to Judy, and nobody's talking to Paul,
If things go on like this around here, won't be nobody talking at all.
No sir, nobody talking at all, oh, no, nobody talking at all.

SINGING THE CHILDREN OUT

Go now in peace, stay if you please,
May the Spirit of Love surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

UNISON OFFERTORY READING

This congregation is the community of ourselves
Its energy and resources are our energy and resources.
Its wealth is what we share.
As we contribute to the life of this community, we affirm our lives within it.

HIS NAME IS ANDREW

David Ackles

His name is Andrew, he works in a canning factory.

He doesn't have a friend, he chooses to wait alone for his life to end.

When Andrew was just a little boy,

He knew all the words to all the hymns of joy,

And he sang them on Sunday, and he sang them on Monday,

And in April and in May, and he heard them say

God is love, God is love - and he believed them.

This child was Andrew, he lived in a world of innocence,

On him the lion grinned, he sang in the arms of God as he strummed.

When Andrew was tall and twenty-one,

He wandered from God and wondered what he'd done,

For he still sang on Sunday, though he muddled through Monday

With a silence in his head, 'til in jest it said:

God redeems, God redeems - and he believed it.

This man was Andrew, hearing a voice he thought was stilled,

Back to the arms of grace,

He stumbled through darkened woods to a lighted place.

When Andrew returned to love and light,

He lifted his voice and sang away the night.

And the preacher from Sunday, heard him singing on Monday,

And he stopped him with a word, then from the darkness Andrew heard:

God is dead, God is dead - and he believed it.

My name is Andrew, I work in a canning factory.

I do not have a friend, I choose to wait alone for this life to end.

WE CAN SLEEP TOMORROW

S.J. Urban

CHORUS:

We can sleep tomorrow, we can sleep tomorrow,

We can sleep tomorrow, but tonight we'll sing.

We can sleep tomorrow, we can sleep tomorrow,

Respite from all sorrow, make the rafters ring.

When we sing together, we are touching at the heart,

All of us one spirit, though we've each our separate part.

Sadness, joy and laughter, when we feel them all the same,

Our disagreements fade away and harmony remains.

CHORUS

And when we think of all the friends who've passed away and gone,

We find they've never left us when we sing their favorite songs.

Joining in on every chorus sung in memory,

And living on with each beloved line of melody.

CHORUS

And when it's time to make that journey to the other side,

Reflecting on the tapestry we've woven with our lives,

We won't regret those nights we sang 'til daybreak came around,

We'll find there's lots of time for sleeping six feet underground.

CHORUS

PRECIOUS FRIEND

Pete Seeger

Just when I thought all was lost, you changed my mind.
You gave me hope (not just the old soft soap),
You showed that we could learn to share in time
(You and me and Rockefeller).
I'll keep pluggin' on, your face will shine through all our tears.
When we sing another little victory song,
Precious friend, you will be there,
Singing in harmony,
Precious friend, you will be there,
You and me and Rockefeller,
Precious friend, you will be there.

SECOND VERSE SAME AS THE FIRST

CLOSING WORDS by Kenneth L. Patton (unison)

We arrive out of many singular rooms, walking over the branching streets. We come to be assured that brothers and sisters surround us, to restore their images on our eyes. We enlarge our voices in common speaking and singing. We try again that solitude found in the midst of those who with us seek their hidden reckonings. Our eyes reclaim remembered faces; their voices stir the surrounding air. The warmth of their hands assures us, and the gladness of our spoken names. This is the reason of cities, of homes, of assemblies in the houses of worship. It is good to be with one another.

HERE'S A HEALTH TO THE COMPANY/THE PARTING GLASS Trad. Arr.

CHORUS: Here's a health to the company and one to my lass,
 Let us drink and be merry all out of one glass;
 Let us drink and be merry, all grief to refrain,
 For we may, or might never, all meet here again.

Kind friends and companions, come join in my rhyme,
And lift up your voices in chorus with mine;
Come drink and be merry, all grief to refrain,
For we may, or might never, all meet here again.

CHORUS

Our ship lies in harbor, she's ready to sail,
I wish her safe passage past doldrums and gales;
And if e'er we should meet again on land or on sea,
I will always remember your kindness to me.

CHORUS

My footsteps may falter, my wit, it might fail
My course may be challenged by November gale.
E'er fortune shall prove to be friend or be foe,
You will always be with me wherever I go.

CHORUS

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE (unison)

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.