



January 3, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Gail Tattersfield

Musicians: Julia Jones, Geoff Pynn, Tracey McFadden, Andy Montgomery, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Cynthia Spiegel, Tom Zimmerman, Michael Mackey

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, January 10: Rev. Scot Hull, "Roll for Initiative"

Sunday, January 17: Rev. Scot Hull, "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Reflections on Martin Luther King Day"

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell

Call to Worship

Prelude “Defying Gravity,” Stephen Schwartz

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 1008 “When Our Heart Is In a Holy Place”

Chorus:

When our heart is in a holy place,
When our heart is in a holy place,
We are bless’d with love and amazing grace,
When our heart is in a holy place.

When we trust the wisdom in each of us,
Ev’ry color ev’ry creed and kind,
And we see our faces in each other’s eyes,
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

When we tell our story from deep inside,
And we listen with a loving mind,
And we hear our voices in each other’s words,
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

When we share the silence of sacred space,
And the God of our Heart stirs within,
And we feel the power of each other’s faith,
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

Chalice Lighting

Song of Praise

Praise God, the Love we all may share;
Praise God, the Beauty everywhere;
Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;
Praise God, the Truth that makes us free.

Our Covenant (written in 1842)

Being desirous of promoting practical goodness in the world,
And of aiding each other in our moral and religious improvement,
We have associated ourselves together -
Not as agreeing in opinion,
Not as having attained universal truth in belief
Or perfection in character -
But as seekers after truth and goodness.

Doxology

From all that dwell below the skies
Let faith and hope with love arise;
Let beauty, truth, and good be sung
Through every land by every tongue.

Passing the Peace

For All Ages "A Penguin Story," Antoinette Portis
presented by Josh Hoecker

Fire Ritual**Joys & Sorrows**

Music "Auld Lang Syne"

REcap Chung Liang, Jaime Andersen

Offertory

Reading "Let Me Die Laughing," Mark Morrison-Reed

Musical Response "How Far I'll Go," Lin-Manuel Miranda

Sermon "Plot Twist"

Closing Hymn # 1015 "I Know I Can"

Though days be dark with storms
And burdens weigh my heart;
Though troubles wait at ev'ry turn,
I know I can go on.

When sorrow heals my soul
And burdens make me strong,
Though troubles wait at ev'ry turn,
I know I can go on.

So brothers take my hand,
And sisters sing my song,
When hope awaits at every turn,
I know we will go on.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude "This is Me," Benji Pasek & Justin Paul

Community Announcements

Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts

Contact Information

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Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

(All activities meet via Zoom. Contact your group leader for links.)

Sunday, January 3

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12
- 1:00 pm New UU? Q&A with the New Guy

Monday, January 4

- 11:30 am Women's Circle Planning Meeting
- 7:30 pm Technology Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 5

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot
- 1:00 pm The Help Desk with Christine
- 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 6

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

Thursday, January 7

- 7:30 pm Family Game Night

Friday, January 8

Saturday, January 9

Sunday, January 10

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12
- 1:00 pm Parents Circle

Announcements

The For All Ages book today is "A Penguin Story" by Antoinette Portis, published by HarperCollins. It's a story about curiosity, determination, and breaking from the crowd to search for something unique. Thanks to HarperCollins for their permission to share the book today. When shopping for books, please patronize our local independent bookshops: Harvey's Tales, Townhouse Books, and Anderson's Bookshop. If you prefer to shop online, Bookshop.org allows your purchase to support the independent bookshop of your choice.

New Year, New Book! UUSG's Buddhist Meditation and Study Group is starting a new book for the new year, and wow--is it on topic! Join us to discuss "Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy," by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. The authors bring expertise in the areas of Buddhism, deep ecology, and the psychology of resilience. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 7pm on Zoom. Contact uubuddhism@uusg.org for more information. [Here is the Goodreads link.](#)

Wine Down Thursday You are invited every second and fourth Thursday at 7pm to Happy Hour. Our first happy hour will be on January 14. Bring your favorite beverage and enjoy the company of other UUs as we talk about anything and everything. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84241796675>
Meeting ID: 842 4179 6675

BYOL (Lunch) with Rev. Scot: Tuesdays at Noon Rev. Scot will be hosting an open meeting on Zoom each Tuesday at noon. No agenda. No requirements. Come if you can, when you can. Just bring yourself, your concerns, your questions, your stories, your jokes—and your lunch—and join him (and your congregational friends!) in our virtual courtyard for an hour of conversation, connection, and community. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5832903665>.
Meeting ID: 583 290 3665, Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 (Chicago).

Bible Study for UUs For UUs who simply want to learn more about the history of the Bible as literature, as well as early Christianity, "Bible Study for UUs" is on the third Monday of each month, 7-8:30pm. Our next meeting will be on January 18. We'll be discussing the book "[Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal.](#)"

The Board of Directors has extended our current stay-at-home practice including a continuation of virtual services, group meetings and other functions until at least **January 31**.

Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG's COVID-19 Reopening Strategy. The Board of Directors has re-visited the June 2020 Board Statement and our plans for moving forward. Please visit our website to read the letter and learn more about UUSG's plan for the future, or read it here: [Updated "Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG's COVID-19 Reopening Strategy."](#)

Sermons Now on YouTube! Would you like to watch past sermons and share them with friends and family? [Visit our YouTube and don't forget to subscribe!](#)

Conversations with Rev. Scot, Sundays at 1pm

Rev Scot wants to connect with you! Join him in January for the following discussions:

January 3: New UU? Q&A with the New Guy!

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? New to UUSG? Want to know more? Join our new minister, Rev. Scot, for a monthly drop-in on the first Sunday of the month, at 1pm--after the service, coffee break-outs, and the talk-back.

Bring your questions, your curiosity, and a cup of coffee, and we'll chat!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85446292800>

January 10: Parents Circle

Got kids? These are impossible times, and impossible times calls for coffee and community. If you can take an hour, come chat with Rev. Scot and other UUSG parents about what's on your head & heart.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84033914938>

January 17: Minister Coffee

Open Forum! For those of you that think those talk-back sessions are just a tad too short, this is for you. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and a cup of coffee, and we'll chat!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87896751773>

Social Justice News

Thanks! The Social Justice team appreciates the efforts of all who prepared meals this month for Lazarus House homeless shelter. Delicious dinners were provided by Cari, Keith, & Sam Gesiakowski, Jenny Montgomery, Susan & Jim O'Neill, Gail Tattersfield, Renee Tomell, and Sherry Wilson. Yummy lunches were prepared by Lizzie, Mike, and Mikey Clements and by Kerry and Will Sapet.

Beyond Our Walls for January: Jane Adeny Memorial School (JAMS) in Kenya

When practically all of the schools in Kenya were closed for the pandemic, JAMS was unique – the teachers provided remote learning. They lived at the school and contacted the students twice a week through What's App. The school hand-delivered phones to girls living in the most remote areas of Kenya. As one of the students said recently, the teachers "would contact them and know whether they were alive or dead." Wendy Ochido, the student being sponsored by UUSG, wrote to tell us that she was balancing her classwork and house chores. She has also joined a group doing charity work like "helping the elder people in the village." She noted that "learning at home has been quite difficult" since the schools had only been in session for about a month before COVID closed them. She cannot wait to return to JAMS. Your donation will go towards her 4-year scholarship and to educational software designed for Kenya.

Short Version of Board Minutes of December 8, 2020

Roger Gallentine was appointed to the Personnel Committee.

Eagle Concrete donated all material and labor for rebuild of the stoop at the James Street entrance, so all the concrete work cost the church nothing. An appropriate thank you note has been sent to Eagle Concrete for great generosity. The Facilities Team members did all the preparatory work for pouring the new concrete, including demolishing the old stoop.

A revised UUSG Policies & Guidelines for Weddings & Services of Holy Union was approved and adopted.

The building closure was extended through January 31, 2021.