



March 14, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull, with Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and Rev. Mariela Pérez-Simons

Worship Associate: Diane Gallentine

Musicians: UUSG Choir led by Cynthia Spiegel

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, March 21: Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Dr. Nicole Kirk

Sunday, March 28: Rev. Scot Hull

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell Mikey Clements

Call to Worship

Prelude “Don’t Be Discouraged/Hold On”

Glen Ballard and Chynna Phillips, arr. Trey McLaughlin.

(©ASCAP/BMI) Sung by the Women’s 8 of All Souls DC: Juliene James, Loyce Pace, Norah Quinn McCormick, Rochelle Rice, A. Tianna Scozarro, Melinda St. Louis, Jennie Wasserman, & Jen Hayman, director and accompanist

Welcoming Words Rev. Scot

Greetings from the UUA Rev. Vail Weller & Rev. Erica Hewitt

Chalice Lighting Sam Gesiakowski

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.

Story For All Ages “Madam Modifuss,” as told by Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Passing the Peace

Honoring Women

Joys & Sorrows

Hymn # 123 “Spirit of Life”

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;

move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free;

Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Meditation Rev. Mariela Pérez-Simons, reflecting on the words of Bernard Loomer

Musical Response “Loves Devine,” Mark Batson and Sealhenry Samuel. (©BMG) Rochelle Rice, vocals; Todd Simon, piano; Romeir Mendez, bass; Dante Pope, drums; and the Loved Into Being virtual choir, directed by Jen Hayman

Sermon “Loved Into Being,” Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Offertory Invitation to Generosity by Rev. Vail Weller

Offertory Music Rise Up (for Something)” Andra Day (©ASCAP)

Nicole Rumeau, lead vocals; youth soloists; Todd Simon, piano; Romeir Mendez, bass; Dante Pope, drums; and the Loved Into Being virtual choir, directed by Jen Hayman

Benediction Rev. Vail Weller, Rev. Erika Hewitt, Rev. Mariela Pérez-Simons, Rev. Chris Long, Jen Hayman, & Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Postlude “Nina Cried Power” Andrew Hozier Byrne (©BMI)

Performed by the All Souls UU DC choir. Rochelle Rice and Shacara Rogers, soloists; Gordon Kent, piano; Corey Null, bass; Dante Pope, drums

Community Announcements

Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

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

Sunday, March 14

- 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
- 2:00 pm Dungeons & Dragons

Monday, March 15

Tuesday, March 16

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot

Wednesday, March 17

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

Thursday, March 18

- 11:00 am Simply Sharing
- 7:30 pm Family Game Night

Friday, March 19

Saturday, March 20 UUSG Week of Service Begins

- 9:00 am Northern IL Food Bank

Sunday, March 21

- 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 Pathway to Membership

Can't find something? Need a little more information? Check out our website at uusg.org and our calendar at uusg.org/calendar.

Announcements

Quick Pledge Drive Update The Stewardship Team is happy to report that as of today we have received around the same number of pledges as we had received this time last year. Many of the pledges include **increases** above last year's levels, and some pledges have gone above and beyond. We are poised to get ahead of the curve and make up for the challenges we had anticipated during the past two years. All in all, we are doing great, and the pledge drive is reflecting our own "new normal." The Pledge Drive Committee members are having a wonderful time talking with everyone, and we truly appreciate your readiness to take the time for phone and/or email conversations. Special thanks to all who are making our Sunday services so engaging, and extra-special thanks to the young people who have contributed their talents for Sunday videos! **We have a lot to be grateful for and so much to look forward to. Your pledges and ongoing support - time, talent and treasure - make all the difference in the world. We cannot possibly thank you enough! [Make your pledge online here.](#)**

Week of Service UUSG's Week of Service will be **Saturday, March 20 to Saturday, March 27**. Members and friends are invited to promote practical goodness by volunteering in our community. The Week of Service will feature a mix of distanced, in-person activities, Zoom events, and opportunities to drop off supplies for our neighbors in need. For more information and to sign up visit uusg.org/week-of-service.

Today: 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>

Our annual Tenebrae service is a traditional service of descent into darkness held during the final three days of holy week before Easter. It is commonly practiced with solemn music, readings from scripture, and the progressive extinguishment of candles. It recognizes that the victory of Easter morning is always preceded by the despair of Good Friday. Tenebrae is an opportunity to sit with the difficult realities of our world, before the celebration of hope that arrives on Easter morning. **Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates** will observe this traditional UUSG event with us on **Good Friday, April 2**. Please join us at 7:30 pm for music preceding the service, which begins at 8 pm.

Vaccine Angels Available to Help If you need assistance in finding and scheduling a Covid vaccine appointment, WOW would like to help. We will pair you with a Vaccine Angel (a member or UUSG friend) who will help you navigate the process. Contact WOW at wow@uusg.org for assistance.

The UUSG “Beyond Our Walls” for March is actually a “Within Our Walls”

The UUSG “Make A Difference” (MAD) fund was established in 1996 to respond to requests from church members and friends for practical, short-term, one-time emergency financial assistance. We have been able to help many members since then. Visit uusg.org/donate to give. Thank you!

Wine Down Thursday You are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm, to Happy Hour. Next date is **March 25**. Bring your favorite beverage and enjoy the company of other UUs as we talk about anything and everything. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84241796675> Meeting ID: 842 4179 6675.

Vaccinated? Let us know! In the spirit of optimism and hope in our community we are keeping a running tally of how many of our members and friends have received the COVID-19 vaccine. So far, **we have 70 members vaccinated**, we are so looking forward to being together again! Please let us know at admin.assistant@uusg.org.

Board Chat In an effort to make ourselves more accessible to the congregation, the Board will host a “chat room” on the 4th Sunday of each month. After the service, “click” on our breakout room and let’s chat it up! Want to ask a question? Bring something to our attention? We look forward to seeing you **March 28**.

One Book One UUSG An email with the Zoom link for our book discussion will be coming by March 18. Please email Glenda Peck (peckrglenda@gmail.com) if you sent a RSVP and have not received the email with the link.

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).

Join your friends at UUSG for some game play fun! 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83203291200>.

Worried you won't know how? No problem...come and learn! Your belly will thank you for filling it with laughter. To play, simply join the Zoom meeting on your computer or laptop and bring an iOS or Android smartphone or tablet, which players will use separately to participate in the games. **March 18** is our next playdate. We look forward to seeing you. Be there or be square!

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 **May 31**. The Board of Directors has re-visited the June 2020 Board Statement and our plans for moving forward. Please read the letter and learn more about UUSG's plan for the future: [Updated "Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG's COVID-19 Reopening Strategy."](#)

The Inclusion Bookclub* We're still working on the title, but in the meantime – and in the spirit of "salvation through bibliography" – we're starting another book club because you can never have too many books or too many book clubs. Join Rev. Scot, Lisa Gades, and others in a monthly exploration where we will cover some of the many facets of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is a fantastic first step for those just starting the journey with the ideas, stories, and challenges of become a more just and more equitable society – and a great refresher for those who have been "doing the work" for years. No prerequisite required – just a willingness to read and to listen. We'll be announcing the first several books in a week or so, and we're planning to have our first discussion meeting in early April. If you're interested, want to know more, want to sign up, send a note to Christine at office@uusg.org.

Upcoming Adult Education

Difficult Conversations with Kern Beare

Your boss. A rude neighbor. A challenging family member. A childhood friend. A parent, partner, child. Engaging, or staying engaged, with these important figures in our daily lives can be a challenge. And when the conversation gets tough, what then? Neuroscience tells us that difficult conversations are difficult because they activate our fight/flee/freeze survival drive. In this workshop, you'll learn about three research-based strategies that counteract this ancient survival instinct, helping us to stay present and creative in any conversation. This is a workshop for everyone, no-prerequisite required. We're

bringing this to our community as part of our ongoing commitment to living better, together, and with more compassion and connection. All are welcome. This free workshop is split across 3 separate sessions: **May 1, 8, & 15, 1-3:30pm.** [Please sign up here.](#)

See-Something/Say-Something: An Anti-Bias Workshop, April 10, 1-4pm

A little science, a little history & a lot of self-reflection are the key to creating a truly inclusive and equitable society. In this workshop, we will talk about implicit bias, micro vs. macro aggressions, and what we might do or say in the moment when someone crosses the line. These skills will help UUSG become a more hospitable and welcoming place to newcomers. This workshop will be hands-on. There is no cost to UUSG members and friends. All are welcome, though some familiarity with the ideas involved are recommended. Class size will be limited, so be sure to reserve your seat by [signing up here.](#)

Shared Pulpit: A Sermon Seminar “Everyone has a truth to share.”

Have you ever wondered what goes into a sermon? What makes a sermon different from a talk? How to take your truth and shape it into something that is moving, comforting, inspiring, or challenging? In this workshop, we'll explore the theory and theology of preaching, practice writing and speaking with authenticity, and gradually build toward composing quality 20-minute sermons. Rev. Scot will be leading this workshop over Zoom, with times and dates depending on what will support the majority. Class size is limited. First session in early April. If you're interested, want to know more, or want to sign up, send a note to Christine at office@uusg.org.

Pathways to Membership Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? New to UUSG? Interested in becoming a member? This class is for you! Date/Time: **March 21, 1-3pm.** To sign up, please send a request to office@uusg.org.

Reading the Bible: A Class for the Skeptic, the Curious, and the Wandering Believer The Bible is a challenging book for a great many. A solace for some and a weapon for others, the stories and the sayings nevertheless underpin much of American society and our national debate. At the least, familiarity creates flexibility and understanding; at the most, the Bible can be deeply enriching, spiritual, and life-giving. As a UU, my approach to scripture has always been one of curiosity – I just kinda want to know what all the fuss is about. All are welcome. No previous exposure is required but would certainly be welcomed. If you're interested, please send a note to office@uusg.org to be added to the list. We'll be picking times/dates for meetings based on everyone's availability.

Women's Circle Restore and Renew, a March Celebration. Saturday, March 27, 1-3pm, via Zoom. We will be examining the history, spirituality and journey of UUSG women, from Betsy Conant (1842), to Lindsay Bates (2018)...and beyond. All members and friends (new or longtime) identifying as female (18+) are invited. Please join us. [Sign up here.](#)

For the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources: Antiracism Website

Please join us on our journey to become antiracists in collective ways as well as individual ways. When we choose to be antiracist, we become actively conscious about race and racism and take actions to end racial inequities in our daily lives. Being antiracist is believing that racism is everyone's problem, and we all have a role to play in stopping it. Many educational resources are available through UUSG and other UU churches, through the UUA, on Netflix, on YouTube, at your local library or bookstore, etc. [Here are some easily accessible resources to increase your awareness.](#)

Social Justice News

Thank you to all who advocated for the Emma's Landing Affordable Housing proposal in Geneva and to our Alderpersons who supported the project. The proposal was approved by the City Council on March 8!!

Election Calendar:

Now: [Request a Ballot by Mail for 2021 Consolidated Election.](#) The last day a ballot can be mailed is **April 1**. Note: For Kane County, enter EITHER your street number OR the street name. Otherwise, you will be told "No records found," and you will need to call 630-232-5990.

Through April 5: Early Voting. [See times and locations here.](#)

Through April 6: Grace Period Registration and Voting – same locations as Early Voting

March 16: 6pm, St. Charles Candidate Forum (St. Charles Township, St. Charles Library District, Mayor, City Council/Aldermanic (all 5 wards) and St. Charles District 303 School Board) [will be available here](#) and [livestreamed here.](#)

March 18: 7 pm, Geneva Mayoral Candidate forum – [will be available AFTER the event here.](#)

April 6: 6am-7pm [Polling places listed here.](#)

Social Justice Calendar:

April 3: [Sign up here to provide a casserole and salad or lunches](#) at Lazarus House.

Contact Information

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