

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough

November 21, 2021

Thanksgiving Sunday

Prelude

Thrive Choir

We Shall Be Known by Karisha Longaker of Mamuse

Welcome and Announcements

Kelly Lownds

Hymn

#389 *Gathered Here* (see page 4)

Opening Words

For Five Thousand Years, Or More by Sebastian Glaspey

Chalice Words

#454 *In our time of grief*

Emmett Gunn
by Christine Robinson

Chalice Lighting (*Everyone can light their candles at home.*)

Eamon Gunn

Eamon: In the spirit of love, I light this chalice.

(*in unison*) ***In the spirit of love.***

Chalice Lighting Response

May We Shine a Light of Love

by Joyce Poley

May we shine a light of love,

May we shine a light of love,

With ev'ry thought, With ev'ry step we take

May we shine a light of love.

Musical Offering

Chalice Ensemble

The Earth Is Our Mother – Native American

from *Songs for Earthlings*, Ed. Julie Forest Middleton

Message for All Ages

Conor Dragunas

A Thanksgrieving Reflection

by Isabel Call

(Joys and Concerns will be shared at the start of our time of fellowship.)

Hymn

#1069 *Ancient Mother* (see page 5)

Time of Meditation

Call to Meditation

#123 *Spirit of Life* Words & music by Carolyn McDade
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.

Responsive Reading (*see page 6*)

Barbara Bancroft and Christine Hoyle
Patty Simon, flute

Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address

Reflection

Forgiveness and Gratitude

Collection of Voices

(Something you have had to forgive and something you are grateful for in the world – natural world/family world – that you don't want to lose.)

Offertory

To a Wild Rose

by Edward MacDowell

Closing Words

Excerpt from *The Honorable Harvest*

Kelly Lownds
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Hymn

#346 *Come, Sing a Song with Me* (*see page 10*)

Unison Benediction

Go out into the world in peace.
Have courage.
Hold on to what is good.
Return to no person evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.
Help the suffering.
Honor all beings.

Sung Benediction

Go Your Way in Peace

by Jim Scott

*Go your way in peace,
wander as you may,
Blessed is the path you take:
may love guide you on your way.*

Extinguishing the Chalice *(in unison)*

by Becky Laurent

*As flame is to spirit, so spirit is to breath, and breath to song.
Though we extinguish the flame in this sanctuary,
may we tend it in our hearts until we meet again.*

Postlude

Chalice Ensemble

The Storm Is Passing Over

by Charles Albert Tindley, arr. Baker



Chalice Choir

Dody Adkins-Perry, Katie Allen, Nancy Backus, Holly Begley, Cindy Benard, Rick Benard, Jim Bonnar, Joan Breen, Sue Curtiss, Valerie Fontaine, Bet Giddings, Dan Hotchkiss, Dorine Levasseur, Marc MacQueen, Mal Marvill, John Mullen, Andrea Priest, Ed Priest, Patty Simon, Tony Soares, Jeff Stevens, Nicola Wilbar

Music Notes

Kudos to members of the Chalice Choir for singing in an ensemble this morning, and especially to Patty Simon for adding flute into our worship experience.

Lyrics to “We Shall Be Known”

*We shall be known by the company we keep,
By the ones who circle round to tend these fires.
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap
The seeds of change alive from deep within the earth.*

*It is time now, it is time now that we thrive;
It is time we lead ourselves into the well.
It is time now, and what a time to be alive
In this great turning we shall learn to lead in love.*

Gathered Here

Words & music: Philip A. Porter

Gathered here in the mystery of the hour.

Gathered here in one strong body.

Gathered here in the struggle and the power,

Spirit, draw near.

Ancient Mother

Words & music: Traditional Navajo prayer

Ancient Mother, I hear you calling.

Ancient Mother, I hear your song.

Ancient Mother, I feel your laughter.

Ancient Mother, I taste your tears.

Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address

Reader: Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms- waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We turn our minds to the all the Fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that we can still find pure water. So, we turn now to the Fish and send our greetings and thanks.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: With one mind, we turn to honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden. Since the beginning of time, the grains, vegetables, beans and berries have helped the people survive. Many other living things draw strength from them too. We gather all the Plant Foods together as one and send them a greeting of thanks.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: Now we turn to all the Medicine herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us. We are happy there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these plants for healing. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the Medicines and to the keepers of the Medicines.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honored by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We now turn our thoughts to the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who have their own instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty and other useful things. Many people of the world use a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind, we greet and thank the Tree life.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We put our minds together as one and thank all the Birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them beautiful songs. Each day they remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader. To all the Birds-from the smallest to the largest-we send our joyful greetings and thanks.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We are all thankful to the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind, we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: Now we turn to the west where our grandfathers, the Thunder Beings, live. With lightning and thundering voices, they bring with them the water that renews life. We are thankful that they keep those evil things made by Okwiseres underground. We bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to our Grandfathers, the Thunderers.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest Brother, the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We put our minds together to give thanks to our oldest Grandmother, the Moon, who lights the night-time sky. She is the leader of woman all over the world, and she governs the movement of the ocean tides. By her changing face we measure time, and it is the Moon who watches over the arrival of children here on Earth. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We give thanks to the Stars who are spread across the sky like jewelry. We see them in the night, helping the Moon to light the darkness and bringing dew to the gardens and growing things. When we travel at night, they guide us home. With our minds gathered together as one, we send greetings and thanks to the Stars.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring teachers.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

Reader: We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

Congregation: *Now our minds are one.*

This translation of the Mohawk version of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address was developed, published in 1993, and provided, courtesy of: Six Nations Indian Museum and the Tracking Project All rights reserved.

Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World English version: John Stokes and Kanawahienton (David Benedict, Turtle Clan/Mohawk) Mohawk version: Rokwaho (Dan Thompson, Wolf Clan/Mohawk) Original inspiration: Tekaronianekon (Jake Swamp, Wolf Clan/Mohawk)

Come, Sing a Song with Me

Words & music: Carolyn McDade

Come, sing a song with me,
come, sing a song with me,
come, sing a song with me,
that I might know your mind.

Chorus:

And I'll bring you hope
when hope is hard to find,
and I'll bring a song of love
and a rose in the wintertime.

Come, dream a dream with me,
come, dream a dream with me,
come, dream a dream with me,
that I might know your mind.

(Chorus)

Come, walk in rain with me,
come, walk in rain with me,
come, walk in rain with me,
that I might know your mind.

(Chorus)

Come, share a rose with me,
come, share a rose with me,
come, share a rose with me,
that I might know your mind.

(Chorus)