

Decorah ♦ Unitarian ♦ Universalist ♦ Fellowship

Sunday, June 21, 2020

Gathering virtually since 2020!

www.decorahuu.org

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Welcome and Announcements

Today's service reflects to our second UU Principle Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
Our theme for June is Beloved Community.

Chalice Lighting

"Why a flaming chalice?" the question comes.

It's the cup of life, we answer.

A cup of blessings overflowing.

A cup of water to quench our spirits' thirst.

A cup of wine for celebration and dedication.

The flame of truth.

The fire of purification.

Oil for anointing, healing.

Out of chaos, fear, and horror,

thus was the symbol crafted, a generation ago.

So may it be for us,

in these days of uncertainty, sorrow, and rage.

And a light to warm our souls and guide us home.

...The Rev. Lisa Doege

Opening Words

Opening Song #169 *We Shall Overcome*

...African American

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday!

Oh, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

We'll walk hand in hand. . . .

We shall all be free. . . .

We shall live in peace. . . .

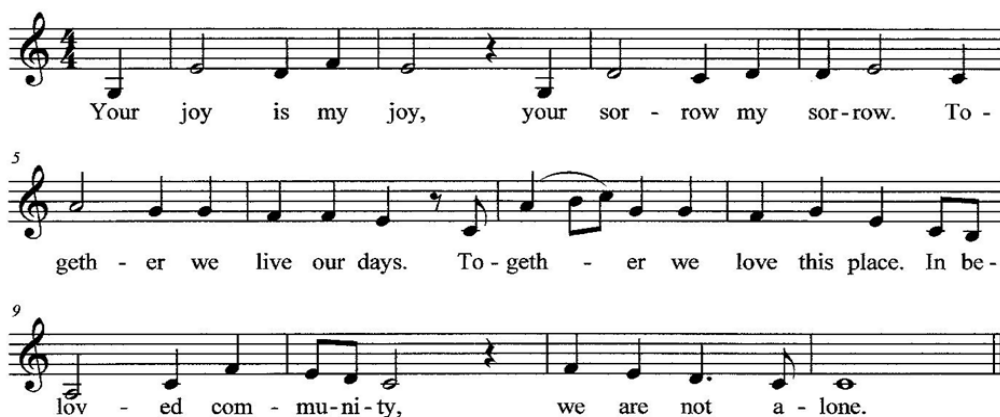
Land Acknowledgement

Joys and Sorrows Please raise your Zoom hand to share any personal joy or concern with the Fellowship.

Silence/Response

Your Joy Is My Joy

Ellen Rockne



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9

Reading Ironically, Americans who self-identify as not racist – whether they're conservatives, moderates, liberals, radicals, progressives – they don't realize... that we are connecting ourselves to a history of slave traders who self-identified as not racist (although they didn't use that term).

We're connecting ourselves to enslavers who said, “Yes, when we say black people should be enslaved; when we say slavery is a positive good; when we say slavery is a necessary evil; when we say that black people are the cursed descendants of Ham, those are not racist ideas, that's God's law. That's science's law, that's nature, that's logic.”

We don't realize we're connecting to Jim Crow segregationists who said, “I'm not racist, it's separate but equal down here... You can't tell it's separate but equal? We're following the law. We're not racist.”

We're connecting to eugenicists – who were really the first group of Americans to be classified as racist – who also turned around and said, “This is science. This isn't racism. This is science. We have empirical data to demonstrate that black people are intellectually inferior by nature. Just look at their test scores.”

And today we have white nationalists. We have white supremacists who self-identify as not racist. We have white supremacists who, before they go into a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, write a manifesto claiming that Latinx immigrants are invading Texas. And then also claiming, “I'm not racist.”

We have this long history of racists classifying themselves as *not racist*; racists who cannot imagine that they have been reinforcing notions that there's something wrong with a particular racial group; racists who can't imagine that the policies and policy makers they're supporting are creating and reproducing racial inequity.

Fundamentally racism – its heartbeat – has always been denial. And the sound of that heartbeat has always been “I'm not racist.” To be more specific, the sound of that heartbeat has always been “not racist.”

And so in writing *How to Be an Antiracist*, I've had one singular goal. If I could somehow shape the world, what I would hope would come out of this book is very simply we would eradicate the term “not racist” from the American vocabulary. And then it would force people to recognize that they're either what? Racist or anti-racist.

It would force Americans...to recognize that all policies are either racist or anti-racist. ...All ideas are either racist or anti-racist. Then we can truly have an accounting of ourselves, of our ideas, of our policies, and of our country. Because at some point we are going to have to stop denying that we have metastatic racism. Because if you didn't already know, it is literally killing America. It is literally killing this world.

...Ibram X. Kendi, excerpt: speech delivered UC Berkeley, September 12, 2019

Offering/Offertory For all that is our life, we sing our thanks and praise; for all life is a gift that we are called to use to build the common good, and make our own days glad. ...Bruce Findlow/Patrick Rickey

Closing Song *Black Rage*

...Lauryn Hill (a song to experience, not sing)

Black rage is founded on two-thirds a person
Raping and beatings and suffering that worsens
Black human packages tied up in strings
Black rage can come from all these kinds of things

Black rage is founded on blatant denial,
Sweet economics, subsistent survival,
Deafening silence and social control,
Black rage is found in all forms in the soul

CHORUS: When the dog bites, when the beatings, when I'm feeling sad,
I simply remember all these kinds of things, and then I don't fear so bad

Black rage is founded who fed us self hatred
Lies and abuse while we waited and waited
Spiritual treason, This grid and its cages
Black rage is founded on these kinds of things

Black rage is founded on dreaming and draining
Threatening your freedom to stop your complaining
Poisoning your water while they say it's raining
Then call you mad for complaining, complaining

Old time bureaucracy, drugging the youth
Black rage is founded on blocking the truth
Murder and crime, compromise and distortion
Sacrifice, sacrifice. Who makes this fortune?

Greed, falsely called progress, such human contortion
Black rage is founded on these kinds of things. CHORUS

Free enterprise, is it myth or illusion
Forcing you back into purposed confusion
Black human trafficking or blood transfusion
Black rage is founded on these kinds of things

Victims of violence, both psyche and body
Life out of context is living ungodly
Politics, politics, greed falsely called wealth
Black rage is founded on denying of self. CHORUS

Extinguishing the Chalice We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. ...Martin Luther King, Jr.



Announcements

Thank you to our speaker this morning: Decorah UU member **Karen Esterl**. Karen is an applications developer and analyst (aka computer nerd) at Emory University in Atlanta (she telecommutes), but her formal studies have been in religion and English. She majored in both while an undergrad at Furman University and subsequently received her master of theological studies (MTS) in world religions from Harvard Divinity School. She and her spouse, UCC minister the Rev. Ellis Arnold, live in Freeport with two dachshunds, a cat, and a parrot. ❖ After the service this morning, please treat yourself to a little something, and we'll be in touch again soon.

Share-the-Plate - Our plate recipient for May-June is the Decorah Community Food Pantry. To support the plate recipient, see Decorah UU Giving, below. **Note:** An anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$150 in donations to Share-the-Plate for June.

June 28 - No service, as Decorah UU continues its every-other-Sunday summer schedule, but we can all join the largest annual gathering of UUs in worship. This powerful, communal worship experience will take place as part of the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, 9:00-10:30 a.m. Central time. The worship service will include a collection for the **Tomaquag Museum**, an indigenous museum featuring an extensive collection and archive of Southern New England tribal communities. Thanks to the power of technology, we can join the virtual celebration at [UUA.org/ga/2020](https://uua.org/ga/2020).

Decorah UU Support - As we continue to find our way through this challenging time, please remember: **if you need help**, let Otter know via phone 563-387-6050 or email otterdreaming@gmail.com. We'll all need support of one kind or another during this time. Please don't hesitate to ask.

Decorah UU Circles - We are practicing physical distancing to stay safe in these times, but that doesn't mean we must be disconnected socially. Check in with folks in your Circle or others as well, and know that together we care for our UU family and friends. Contact Sue Otte if you have questions or comments: sueotte@gmail.com or 563-419-5396.

Decorah UU Giving - Decorah UU has set up online payment primarily for donations you might otherwise make in person at fellowship. Go to our **Decorah UU** homepage and click on the "Give Online" button, which will take you to the Giving page. There, you'll find the "Donate" button which will send your payment through PayPal. You do NOT need a PayPal account. You'll be asked to choose whether your donation is for **Share-the-Plate** or for **Decorah UU**. You can only choose one, so if you want to donate to both, you will have to repeat the process. You can use a debit or credit card. Below the "Donate" button on the Giving page, you may also consider two options for recurring donations. **Please note:** We deeply appreciate the gracious gifts of our members and friends, whether given on a weekly, monthly, or annual basis. We understand that present circumstances and uncertainty may affect your ability to make a financial commitment to Decorah UU. Know that we value your "gracious gifts" to our fellowship, in whatever form they may be.

Decorah UU Board of Trustees - The next meeting of the Board is Tuesday, July 7, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Board members for 2020-2021 are Beth Wahlberg (treasurer), Matthew Alexander, Maggie Hayden, Julie Ohde and Lynn Pleggenkuhle. Many thanks to departing Board members Carolyn Corbin and Bill Pardee for their years of service to the Fellowship.

Decorah UU Service Archive - Did you miss a service we conducted by Zoom? Or did you attend but would like to watch it again? You can! Go to [Decorah UU](#). There are two links to our new YouTube channel: a small YouTube icon in the upper right and a button in the middle that says "Watch past services on YouTube." Once on the YouTube channel page, you can choose the service you want to watch. We will try to post the link within one week of each service. Tip: If you want to see the bulletin or other information about the service, you can click on the SERVICE ARCHIVE button on the homepage. From there you can click on a service and then the "read more" link.

Member Emergency Fund - Unforeseen troubles come our way from time to time. If you or someone you know in the fellowship could use some help, please let Otter know. We may be able to provide support or short term monetary assistance. Confidentiality will be respected.

Decorah UU online - For more information, please visit our website [Decorah UU](#) or our [Facebook](#) page.

Mail Cheer - Green Iowa Americorps has made a program for people who feel isolated during the pandemic. To give or receive these friendly letters, call *Green Iowa Americorps* at 563-293-5075, or visit the *Decorah & Winneshiek County Mutual Aid Network*.

Decorah Community Food Pantry - The Decorah Community Food Pantry remains open during this time of crisis with clients receiving pre-selected bags of food. All older volunteers have been replaced with younger ones to reduce risk, and a temporary director has been hired. These moves add to operational costs. The need to stay open is clear: just during the week of March 16th, the Pantry served 109 clients with 296 family members, 16 of these being new clients. The numbers are growing as more and more people are laid off. If you can help financially, please send a check to PO Box 26, Decorah, or donate through decorahpantry.org.

