

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Gathering virtually since 2020!

www.decorahuu.org

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Welcome and Announcements

Today's service is related to our 4th UU Principle A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Chalice Lighting Across the distance, the light from within me shines, sending love to all. Across the distance, your light is fuel that warms me and helps to keep my own light burning. Together, we keep the flame of community burning bright. ..The Rev. Laura Thompson

Opening Song *By Breath* ...Sara Thomsen

By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one (2x)

The air that is my breath is the air that you are breathing
And the air that is your breath is the air that I am breathing
The wind rising in my breast is the wind from the east, from the west
From the north, from the south, breathing in, breathing out. By breath, by blood...

The water that is my blood, my sweat, tears from crying
Is the water that is your blood, your sweat, tears from crying
And the rising of the tide is in our veins and in the ocean wide
We are in the rising steam, rushing river, running stream. By breath, by blood...

The earth is dust, the earth is clay, flow'rs blossoming and fading
We are dust and we are clay, we are blossoming and fading
Every color, every sound, every place is holy ground
Oh, every living thing, can you hear it laugh? Can you hear it sing? By breath, by blood...

The fire in my heart, my soul flame burning
Is the fire in your heart, your soul flame burning
We are Spirit burning bright, by the light of day, in the dark of night
We are shining like the sun, and like the moon, like the Holy One. By breath, by blood...

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; your sorrow, my sorrow. Together we live our days, together we love this place. In beloved community, we are not alone. ...Ellen Rockne

Reading

A planet is born, a spark ignites,
something completely new comes into being;
we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of life.

A waterfall descends, a rainbow arcs through the sky,
the ocean opens to an endless horizon;
we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of beauty.

The stars pierce our hearts,
peace envelops us, we are blessed;
we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of wonder.

In the midst of pain, we find our way to hope and restoration;
we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of healing.

In the midst of fear, we do what is right
and speak our truth in faith;
we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of courage.

In our aloneness we see someone in greater need
and offer ourselves to them;
we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of compassion.

We gather in community, in friendship, and cherish each other;
we give thanks for the mystery and miracle of love. ...Amanda Udis-Kessler

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

Remembrance of Things Past Steve Grove

Closing Song *Spirit of Life* ...Carolyn McDade; sung by Steve Grove

**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.**

Extinguishing the Chalice May the blessing of truth be upon us, May the power of love direct and sustain us, May the peace of this community preserve our going out and our coming in, From this time forth, until we meet again. ...The Congregation of Abraxas



Announcements

Thank you to our speaker this morning, Decorah UU member Steve Grove. Steve was born in Minneapolis but adopted into the Farm family near the small town of Wanamingo. He graduated from Luther College, having studied English/Speech and Theater. He then attended the University of Iowa and earned an MA in English Literature and 2nd MA in Library Science. He spent 30 years in the library field before taking early retirement in 2008. In 2015, Steve went back to school at Hazelden School of Addiction Studies and was subsequently licensed in Minnesota in 2015 as a drug and alcohol counselor. He retired from this occupation in August 2019 and moved to Decorah. He and Randall Duvall married in October, the same month he joined Decorah UU! We will hear much more of his life story in today's service. Thank you also to today's service leaders: Carl Peterson and Karen Esterl. After the service, 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.

June 7 – Guy Nave speaks on Beloved Community.

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 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.

Your Joy Is My Joy

Ellen Rockne

Your joy is my joy, your sor - row my sor-row. To -

5
geth - er we live our days. To - geth - er we love this place. In be -

9
lov - ed com - mu - ni - ty, we are not a - lone.