

“Tradition Under Deconstruction”
Order of Worship
Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria
Reverend Jennifer Innis
November 29, 2020

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn “We Sing Now Together” by Edwin Buehrer

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

Sacred Story *The Little Boy Who Put* Meir Liraz, editor
The World Back Together

Joys and Sorrows

Meditation “A Survival Meditation” by Reverend Nate Walker

Musical Interlude “Ancient Mother” A Traditional Navajo Prayer

Sermon *Tradition Under Deconstruction* Reverend Jennifer Innis

Closing Hymn “Life Calls Us On” by Reverends Kendyl Gibbons and
Jason Shelton

Sending Our Light into the World

Benediction

Postlude

Many thanks to our voices: Dave Grebner, Elle Kordonowy and family, and Helen Martin.
Thank you to Rosa Chang for the music. Thank you to Austin Locke for technical support.

Our hymns come from a range of Unitarian Universalist sources. The traditional hymn, “We Sing Now Together” was created by the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse in Moscow, Idaho. Jess Huttemann graces us with her performance of “Ancient Mother”, a traditional Navajo prayer found in our hymnal supplement, *Singing the Journey*. Our closing hymn is “Life Calls Us On” by Reverends Kendyl Gibbons and Jason Shelton paired with the benediction, “Take Courage Friends” by Reverend Wayne Arnason. The production includes members of the choir and voices of young adults who have grown up in the congregation. Thank you to the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana for this music and video.

Lyrics

“We Sing Now Together”

By Edwin Buehrer

We sing now together our song of
thanksgiving,
rejoicing in goods which the ages have
wrought,
for life that enfolds us, and helps and heals
and holds us,
and leads beyond the goals which our
forebears once sought.

We sing of the freedoms which martyrs and
heroes
have won by their labor, their sorrow, their
pain;
the oppressed befriending, our ampler hopes
defending,
their death becomes a triumph, they died not
in vain.

We sing of the prophets, the teachers, the
dreamers,
designers, creators, and workers, and seers;
our own lives expanding, our gratitude
commanding,
their deeds have made immortal their days
and their years.

We sing of community now in the making
in every far continent, region, and land;
with those of all races, all times and names
and places,
we pledge ourselves in covenant firmly to
stand.

“Ancient Mother”

A 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.

“Life Calls Us On”

With verse, “Take Courage Friends”

Words by Rev. Kendyl Gibbons

Music by Rev. Jason Shelton

Verse by Rev. Wayne Arnason

Take courage friends.
The way is often hard, the path is never
clear,
and the stakes are very high.
Take courage.
For deep down, there is another truth:
you are not alone.

Here in reverence now we gather
For the blessings we have known,
With a pledge to one another
That we journey not alone.
Joy and sorrow make us wise,
Kin to all that lives and dies;
Love calls us on, love calls us on.

Words and deeds of those before us
Waken here to keep us strong;
Blend our voices in the chorus
Of creation's living song.
Courage bids us lift our eyes
Upward to the shining skies;
Hope calls us on, hope calls us on.

Loyal guides in love and duty
Lead us with a trusted light;
Blest are they whose inward beauty
Shows the path of truth a right.
Honor is their earthly prize;
By their work we realize,
Faith calls us on, faith calls us on.

We have shared a radiant hour
When the truth has made us free,
And the spirit's gracious power
Dreamed of good that yet shall be.
Bright the path before us lies.
Joyful pilgrims, now we rise;
Life calls us on, life calls us on.