

**“Preparing the Space”
Order of Worship
Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria
Reverend Jennifer Innis
January 3, 2021**

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn “Wake, Now My Senses” by Reverend Thomas Mikelson

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

Sacred Story *The Fairy’s New Year Gift* adapted from Emilie Poulsson

Joys and Sorrows

Musical Interlude “Mourning Reflection” by Jeri Howe

Meditation “Rest in the Peace of This Moment” by Reverend Kris Cervantes

Musical Interlude “There Is More Love Somewhere” African American Hymn

Sermon *Preparing the Space* Reverend Jennifer Innis

Closing Hymn “Soon the Day Will Arrive” by Ehud Manor and Nurit Hirsch

Sending Our Light into the World

Benediction

Postlude

Many thanks to our voices, including Martha Diebold. Thank you to Rosa Chang for the music. Thank you to Austin Locke for technical support.

Our hymns and music come from several sources. Thank you to the Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist for their version of, “Wake, Now, My Senses.” Thank you to Jeri Howe who wrote and performed “Mourning Reflection.” Thank you to Jess Huetteman for her interpretation of “There Is More Love Somewhere.” Thank you to Lea Morris as accompanied by Cantor Jason Kaufman for “Soon the Day Will Arrive.”

Lyrics

“Wake, Now, My Senses”

By Thomas Mikelson

Wake, now, my senses, and hear the earth call;
feel the deep power of being in all;
keep, with the web of creation your vow,
giving, receiving as love shows us how.

Wake, now, my reason, reach out to the new;
join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;
honor the beauty and wisdom of time;
suffer thy limit, and praise the sublime.

Wake, now, compassion, give heed to the cry;
voices of suffering fill the wide sky;
take as your neighbor both stranger and friend,
praying and striving their hardship to end.

Wake, now, my conscience, with justice thy guide;
join with all people whose rights are denied;
take not for granted a privileged place;
God’s love embraces the whole human race.

Wake, now, my vision of ministry clear;
brighten my pathway with radiance here;
mingle my calling with all who will share;
work toward a planet transformed by our care.

“Mourning Reflection”

By Jeri Howe

2020 has held tremendous losses for our country.
There have been over 300,000 lives lost to Covid.

Our health care workers have made difficult sacrifices - some with their lives.

People have lost jobs, they’ve lost homes, they’ve lost hope.

Our country is divided and our hearts ache with the injustices that we see in our world. This winter time of year is always dark but this year the darkness seems deeper as it penetrates our daily lives, even our very souls.

No one has been untouched by difficulties and loneliness.

Music, however, can bring us solace in our grief and help give us expression when words fall short.

Music can be the light that shines in the darkness.

Music can help us honor the lives that have been lost as we move forward towards a new year with new hope.

May the music help us heal.

“There Is More Love Somewhere”

African American hymn

There is more love somewhere.

There is more love somewhere.

I’m gonna keep on ‘til I find it.

There is more love somewhere.

There is more hope somewhere...

There is more peace somewhere..

There is more joy somewhere...

“Soon the Day Will Arrive”

By Ehud Manor and Nurit Hirsch

Soon the day will arrive when we will be together,

and no longer will we live in fear.

And the children will smile without

wondering whether
on that day thunderclouds will appear.

(Chorus)

Wait and see, wait and see what a world
there can be
if we share, if we care, you and me.
Wait and see, wait and see what a world
there can be
if we share, if we care, you and me.

Some have dreamed, some have died to
make a bright tomorrow,
and our vision remains in our hearts.
Now the torch must be passed with new
hope, not in sorrow,
and a promise to make a new start.

(Chorus)