

**“Claiming Imagination”
Order of Worship
Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria
Reverend Jennifer Innis
January 10, 2021**

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Song “America the Beautiful” adapted by The Nields

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

Sacred Story *Walking with the Wind* adapted from John Lewis

Joys and Sorrows

Meditation “Prayer for Protection” by Reverend Elizabeth Nguyen

Hymn “Though I May Speak” by Hal Hopson

Sermon *Claiming Imagination* Reverend Jennifer Innis

Closing Hymn “How Can I Keep from Singing” Early Quaker Song

Sending Our Light into the World

Benediction

Postlude

Many thanks to our voices, including Mary and Will Kuester, Jesse Laughlin and family, and Jeanette Gruber. 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 Nields for permission to share their 2020 version of “America, The Beautiful.” Thank you to Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist for their version of, “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire.” Thank you to Brother Sun for their performance of “How Can I Keep from Singing?” at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in 2014.

Lyrics

“America the Beautiful”
Adapted by The Nields

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountains majesty
Above the fruited plains
America! America!
God shed her grace on thee
And crown thy good in neighborhoods
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for reason in
The founding of our rules
The balance of the power trumps
The tyranny of fools
America, America,
God mend thine ev’ry flaw
Confirm thy soul in self control
By liberty and law

O, beautiful our open skies
How far our eyes do go
We crave a land unlimited
By anyone’s control
America, our liberty
Has blinded us with greed
Our bounty has deluded us
To take more than we need.

How humbling, that grace bestowed
On our unworthy heads
When we the people turn our backs
On families that fled
America, our borders ache
O, let us find our soul
Unite the families torn apart
Each broken heart be whole.

O beautiful, to make amends
For our abhorrent acts
Our country built by labor forced
On stolen lands and backs
America, repent for this

Repair and say what’s true
Let equity our promise be
Declare these truths anew

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountains majesty
Above the fruited plains
America! America!
God shed her grace on thee
And crown thy good in neighborhoods
From sea to shining sea.

New lyrics by Nerissa Nields
©2020 Peter Quince Publishing ASCAP

“Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”
By Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and
have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain as
sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving
so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit
soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our
spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this
we worship, and are freed.

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”
Early Quaker Song, adapted

My life flows on in endless song above
earth’s lamentation.
I hear that real though far-off hymn that
hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear

that music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing!

What though the tempest 'round me roars,
I hear the truth, it liveth.
What though the darkness 'round me close,
songs in the night it giveth.
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear that music ringing
It sounds an echo in my soul
How can I keep from singing!

When tyrants tremble sick with fear and
hear their death knells ringing
when friends rejoice both far and near, how
can I keep from singing!
In prison cells and dungeon vile our
thoughts to them are winging;
when friends by shame are undefiled, how
can I keep from singing!

My life flows on in endless song
Above earth's lamentation
I hear that real though far-off hymn that
hails a new creation
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear that music ringing
It sounds an echo in my soul
How can I keep from singing!