

RED RIVER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

Sunday, June 6, 2021

Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within. I use the word "love" here not merely in the personal sense but as a state of being, or a state of grace - not in the infantile American sense of being made happy but in the tough and universal sense of quest and daring and growth.

~ James Baldwin

GATHERING OUR SELVES

- ♦ Ringing the Tibetan Bowl
- ♦ A Bit About Us
- ♦ Prelude - *I Am What I Am* - Music & words: Jerry Herman Singers: The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC

CREATING VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

- ♦ Call to Community - *Come into This Circle of Love and Justice* by Aija Duelm* and Marilyn Sewell*
- ♦ Chalice Lighting - *The Pride Flame* by Linda Lee Franson*
- ♦ Spoken Affirmation - *words on the screen*

EXPANDING OUR UNDERSTANDINGS

- ♦ Opening Thought - *This Faith* by Heide Cottam*
- ♦ Song - *Love Will Guide Us* words: Sally Rogers Music: Trad. Singers: Unitarian Church of Baltimore Virtual Choir

EMBRACING OUR LIMITATIONS

- ♦ Reading - from *Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin
- ♦ Practices - from *Break Down Barriers* by Rhys Williams*
- ♦ Musical Response - *There Is a Love* Words: Rebecca Parker Music: Elizabeth Norton Singer: Christopher Watkins Lamb*

DECLARING OUR POSSIBILITIES

- ♦ Discourse - *Love Your Neighbor* by the Rev. Dr. Aija Duelm
- ♦ Song - *Answering The Call of Love* Words & Music: Jason Shelton* Singer: Michael Tacy*

CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

- ♦ Closing Thought - *May the Love That Gives to Life its Beauty* by George G. Brooks*
- ♦ Extinguishing the Chalice - *words on the screen*
- ♦ Looking Ahead - *A Glimpse about next Sunday*
- ♦ Postlude - *Shalom* sung by Deborah Klinger and the Virtual Chamber Choir, the Community Church of Chapel Hill, NC

*Acknowledging contributions from Unitarian Universalists

PROGRAM NOTES

Welcome to our virtual morning assembly. *During these challenging times it is worthy of us to be together, even if it is virtually. Community exists because people want it to and our small, feisty, august group of diverse people are committed to keeping the only religiously liberal religious congregation in Texoma alive and thriving. We're glad you've joined us today.*

Since we can't greet you at the front door, we hope you will venture to redriveruu.org/visitor and fill out a guest card so we may get to know you.

Following the morning assembly, we gather online for a virtual coffee hour. You are invited to drop by. We gather at Zoom Meeting ID: 933 8502 2882.

About today's guest minister: Rev. Dr. Aija Duelm (she/her/hers) is a UU minister, living in Benbrook, TX. Her work experiences include pastoral leadership in a congregation in St. Louis, MO and healthcare chaplaincy in both adult and pediatric settings. Together with her husband they enjoy gardening.

We're Returning Home ~ Sunday, July 4th. Later this month the Board will send out guidelines for the protocols that will help to assure we can gather and be safe. Dr. Mark Davies will join us and the Worship Team is planning a worthy celebration fitting a homecoming.

Details about the UU involvement in stopping the three anti-trans bills in the TX legislature is detailed in the June newsletter. (All three bills died in committee).

CREATING TODAY' MORNING ASSEMBLY

Guest Speaker: *the Rev. Dr. Aija Duelm*
Production: *Doug Strong*

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021

BEYOND A STAINED GLASS JESUSA LONG HISTORY OF HERETICS - PART I

The Rev. Art Severance, *speaking*

As we approach Spring, we also approach Easter, that Christian holiday so important to tradition and so difficult to translate without resorting to metaphor and myth, but it is at its heart a natural holiday of the changing of the seasons while reprocessing the hope of new birth!

Mark Twain said, "Faith is believing what you know ain't so," and we know from that that he was thinking like Unitarians and Universalists had always thought, except we would then question that kind of faith! And when you start questioning, you become a heretic, a word that means "choice", but really means WRONG choice.

I will argue that our Founding Fathers weren't Christians but heretics and Unitarians, the Pilgrims heretics from the Church of England which were heretics from Catholicism. Emerson was a heretic from Unitarianism! And let's talk about the difference between Arianism and Socinianism - it was a huge debate in early Unitarianism!



Red River Unitarian Universalists
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