

RED RIVER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

Sunday, June 13, 2021

“Unitarian Universalists are neither a chosen people nor a people whose choices are made for them by theological authorities - ancient or otherwise. We are a people who choose.”

from *A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism*
~ The Rev. Dr. Forrester Church*

GATHERING OUR SELVES

- ♦ Ringing the Tibetan Bowl
- ♦ A Bit About Us
- ♦ Prelude - *Every Time I Hear the Spirit* - Music & words: African American Spiritual Singers: Steve Hulse

CREATING VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

- ♦ Opening Thought - *Ten Suggestions for a Healthy Congregation* by Dean Starr*
- ♦ Chalice Lighting - by Art Severance*
- ♦ Spoken Affirmation - *words on the screen*

EXPANDING OUR UNDERSTANDINGS

- ♦ Song - *Shall We Gather by the River* words: John Hook Music: Robert Lowell. Performed by A. Severance*
- ♦ Reading - *Things Commonly Believed Among Us* by William Channing Gannett*

EMBRACING OUR LIMITATIONS

- ♦ Story for All Ages - *How the Unitarians Invented Air* by A. Severance*
- ♦ Reading - *Women in the Nineteenth Century* by A. Severance*

DECLARING OUR POSSIBILITIES

- ♦ Discourse - *A Long History of Heretics - Part I* by the Rev. Art Severance*
- ♦ Song - *May the Circle Be Unbroken* Words: William Wolf* Music: Trad. Singer: A. Severance

CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

- ♦ Closing Words - Translation of *The Lord's Prayer* by A. Severance*
- ♦ Extinguishing the Chalice - *words on the screen*
- ♦ Looking Ahead - *A Glimpse about next Sunday*
- ♦ Postlude - *Go Now in Peace* Music and words: Natalie Sleeth

*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 reddriveruu.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. Art graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary with a master's degree in divinity in 1987 and was ordained in 1988. Art ministered to seven UU congregations during his active ministry, including 15 years at the First Unitarian Church of San Antonio. He retired in 2015 and moved back to San Antonio. He now occasionally preaches at our church and at churches in the area.*

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.

CREATING TODAY' MORNING ASSEMBLY

Guest Speaker: *The Rev. Art Severance*

Production: *Marla Loturco*

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021

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

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 it's 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", butt 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!



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