

Unity Church resides on the homelands of the Dakota Nation. We honor with gratitude the people who have stewarded the land throughout the generations and their ongoing contributions to this region. We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota Nation, and we wish to interrupt this legacy, beginning with acts of healing and honest storytelling about this place.

At the June 2024 General Assembly, delegates will vote on Article II of the UUA's bylaws, which currently contains Unitarian Universalism's Seven Principles and Purposes. The graphic found on the cover depicts the proposed changes to Article II. For a fuller description of the report, visit bit.ly/art2uua, or simply type UUA Article II in your browser for more information.

Today's offering recipient, Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA), is grounded in Unitarian Universalist aspirations to work for justice by creating partnerships among UUs, faith groups, and civic organizations. This is a critical year as we enter a presidential election cycle amidst rising authoritarianism, climate crises, and increased threats to reproductive, gender, and trans rights. This collection will fund the 2024 Get Out the Vote initiative. Donate at bit.ly/sundayoffering



Worship associate Lorelee Wederstrom has been a member of Unity Church for nineteen years and during that time has been joyfully engaged as a founding member of Unity Singers and as strategic planner and project manager for the Unity Tomorrow project. Now retired from the University of Minnesota as a facilities executive, Lorelee lives on the banks of the Mississippi River in South Minneapolis with her life partner, Ruth Palmer, and their two canine kids. Ruth and Lorelee were married in Unity's Chapel in 2014.

Unity Singers is Unity's auditioned, chamber choral ensemble. Each singer's involvement is built on a passion for singing and for ministry through music. This ensemble has an outstanding trajectory of representing Unitarian Universalist music locally and abroad through many commissions and premieres of music by world renowned composers, professionally produced recording projects, and collaborations with other ensembles and community organizations. Ahmed Anzaldúa, director; Kathleen Kraulik, pianist

Alice Parker Pyle, beloved choral composer, conductor and teacher, and beloved mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and great-grandmother, died peacefully on December 24, 2023, at her home in Hawley, Massachusetts, surrounded by her family. Alice heard music all the time: in the singing brook that runs beside her house, in the chilly kitchen where she prepared her meals, in the sunlit study where she brought melody to life. Towards the end of her life, in part as a spiritual practice and a reflection on the cycles of life, she wrote "Quiet World," a set of eight short canons to mix and match.

Composer's note: "I Flow...I Am" is a setting of Anita Borrow's and Joanna Macy's a translation of Rilke's 29th and ultimate sonnet to Orpheus. It is a spiritual commentary on the courage it takes to be present in darkness, breathing, speaking, living and loving through pain and uncertainty. As Macy suggests, we may only survive on this planet by flowing with the turbulence of the earth, taking refuge in its beautiful chaos.

With gratitude for Unity's 2023 memorial service volunteers: Elaine Ambrose, Karen Buggs, Barbi Byers, Sue Conner, Sue Doffing, Barbara Ford, Sara Ford, Ellen Green, Betsy Guthmann, Anne Haley, Nancy Heege, Sharon Hogenson, Barbara Hubbard, Carol Humpage, Elaine Kienitz, Marsha Knittig, Carol Olson Johnson, Joan Laux, Laurel Lein, Ona Lentz, Kelley Loughrey, Nancy Lundborg, Ruth MacKenzie, Joan Maclin, Hilary Magnuson, Stephanie Martineau, Sharon Merritt, Carol Miller, Cynthia Mills, Betsy Moore, Courtney Nagle, Angela Newhouse, Jennifer Otto, Barb Rogne, Marty Rossmann, Joleen Rudeen, Kathy Schur, Sally Seiberlich, Liz Severn, Therese Sexe, Virgie Sheff, Phyllis Sherman, Becky Smith, Olly Staneslow, Jane Thomson, Kathy Wallace, Arlene West, Louise Wolfram, Ellen Wold, and Tom Zell.

Tolling of Bells

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz



Unity Church–Unitarian
Sunday, January 7, 2024
9:00 and 11:15 a.m.
[Livestream](#) at 9:00 a.m.

<div>ORDER OF WORSHIP</div> <div>Sunday, January 7, 2024 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.</div> <div><i>*Please rise in body or in spirit.</i></div>		
GATHERING MUSIC	Quiet World by Alice Parker	Unity Singers
1. The sun ascends the sky then sings down to rest. 2. The moon shows her full face and slowly turns away 3. Twinkling, shimmering, shining, bright constellations of stars pierce the night sky. 4. Springs rise from the earth, form transparent clouds, return as rain. 5. Seeds hidden in soil split and grow, open in bloom, then fade away. 6. Winds and tides, ebb and flow, rocking, rocking, rocking us to sleep. 7. Waters move 'round the globe, gathering, subsiding, washing up on shore. 8. Woodthrush sings a plaintive song, calling, calling.		
WELCOME CONGREGATIONAL NEWS		Rev. Kathleen Rolenz
PEALING THE BELL		
PRELUDE	Agnus Dei from Mass for Four Voices by William Byrd	
CALL TO WORSHIP KINDLING THE CHALICE FLAME		Lorelee Wederstrom
*HYMN	All My Memories of Love #336	
*RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION	Ecclesiastes 3:1-3	
To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: <i>a time to be born, and a time to die;</i> a time to kill, and a time to heal; <i>a time to break down, and a time to build up;</i> a time to weep, and a time to laugh; <i>a time to mourn, and a time to dance;</i> All: <i>To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.</i>		
EMBRACING MEDITATION PRAYER SILENCE		Rev. Lara Cowtan
Together, we recognize the cycle of life and death, the circle of love, compassion and witness that is at the center of this and every sacred community. We support parents and teachers and all those whose primary spiritual practice is caring for children, those who live with grief or chronic pain, with illnesses seen or unseen or with mental disability, and with those who are struggling with addiction. <i>We hold you.</i> We pray for our neighbors who are imprisoned; those who care for family members and loved ones in times of need, and for those who are struggling to stay afloat in the midst of poverty. We hold and bless those who are facing their final days, and all those who rise above heartbreak to face oppression in all its forms. <i>We hold you.</i> We pray for those in harm’s way, for the wisdom and strength of the leaders of the world, and for the people of this courageous congregation, as together we live into our longing to embody and help build Beloved Community. <i>We hold you.</i>		

ANTHEM	again (after ecclesiastes) by David Lang	
people come and people go — the earth goes on and on the sun rises, the sun set — it rushes to where it rises again the wind blows round, round, and round — it stops, it blows again all the rivers run to the sea, but the sea is never full — from where the rivers run they run again these things make me so tired — I can't speak, I can't see, I can't hear what happened before will happen again I forgot it all before. I will forget it all again		
EULOGIES	We Remember...	
Harry Belafonte Roslyn Carter Bishop Carlton Pearson		
OFFERING		
OFFERTORY	Quiet World by Alice Parker	
READING	Good Grief by Amanda Gorman	
HOMILY	Pierced by a New Turning	Rev. Kathleen Rolenz
*LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE		
As we cross into a new year, we recall the bitter pain of loss. There is no emptiness quite like losing someone we love. <i>Yet loving and letting go are woven fine.</i> We cling to the pain, as if by suffering we honor those gone on before and keep them somehow in our midst. <i>Yet they live on in our longing to love. In our struggle for justice, they serve still.</i> We rage against the inevitability of death. Each loss seems to diminish us all. <i>Yet as we stand at the bedside, as we summon the strength to be there, we are embraced by an inexplicable blossoming.</i> We wonder whether we can bear the pain. We are captured by despair, struck numb and overwhelmed, terrified and utterly without hope. <i>And it is in the weaving of life and death that our honest faith is born. May this new year bring greater wisdom, fuller wonder, grander vision, ampler hope.</i>		
CANDLE LIGHTING		
<i>You are invited to come forward to light a candle and speak the name of the person whom you wish to honor and recognize.</i>		
PRAYER		
*HYMN	For All the Saints #103, verses 1, 2, and 4	
*BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	I Flow....I Am by Mari Valverde	
Quiet friend who has come so far, feel how your breathing makes more space around you. Let this darkness be a bell tower and you the bell. As you ring, what batters you becomes your strength. Move back and forth into the change. What is it like, such intensity of pain? If the drink is bitter, turn yourself to wine. In this uncontainable night, be the mystery at the crossroads of your senses, the meaning discovered there. And if the world has ceased to hear you, say to the silent earth: I flow. To the rushing water, speak: I am.		