

Unity Church resides on the homelands of the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations. 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 and Ojibwe Nations, and we wish to interrupt this legacy, beginning with acts of healing and honest storytelling about this place.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are in memory of Gary DeCramer, given with love by Estelle, nine years on.

The quilt in the Sanctuary was made by members of Evergreen Quilters. After the service it will be donated to Project Home to be given to a family using their housing and relocation services.

Today's offering recipient, Citadel Food Bank in St. Paul, is a community resource providing boxes of food for up to 350 families each week. Fresh foods are donated by local stores but Citadel Food Bank needs to purchase shelf-stable foods and home products for the families they serve. Unexpected shortfalls in the 2022 holiday donations have left the food bank scrambling for funds to meet the needs of its clients. Unity Church member Pam Scott is a Citadel volunteer. Donate at bit.ly/sundayoffering



Worship associate Merrill Aldrich lives with his wife Denise, sons Will and Robbie, and cats Alfred and Persephone in the Summit Hill neighborhood of St. Paul. Denise grew up in Hawaii, and Merrill in Massachusetts, and they met in the middle in Houston, Texas. They have been attending Unity Church for about five years. Weekdays Merrill is a data analytics consultant, an avid fan of sports cars and sports car racing, and trying to make some small difference.

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, and Kathleen Kraulik, accompanist.

To access the Sanctuary's assistive listening system, please switch your hearing aid to "T" or request headphones or assistance from an usher. Large print orders of service are also available by request to an usher.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARY BAREMORE • DEBBIE CUSHMAN • CLOVER EARL
KEVIN ELY, SECRETARY • KEVIN HARRIS • MARY HERNANDEZ
JESS LANDGRAF • LOUISE LIVESAY-AL, CHAIR • LAURA SUE SCHLATTER

EXECUTIVE TEAM

REV. KP HONG, MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION
BARBARA HUBBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REV. KATHLEEN ROLENZ, INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER

UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

733 PORTLAND AVENUE, SAINT PAUL 55104 • 651-228-1456
UNITY@UNITYUNITARIAN.ORG • WWW.UNITYUNITARIAN.ORG

The Middle of Our Mission

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz



Unity Church-Unitarian

Sunday, March 5, 2023

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

[Livestream](#) at 9:00 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 5, 2023

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Ahmed Anzaldúa, piano

PEALING THE BELL

Stephanie Steel (9:00), Ron Prieve (11:00)

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP | KINDLING THE CHALICE FLAME

Merrill Aldrich

*OPENING HYMN

#1003 (teal hymnal) *Where Do We Come From?*

*RESPONSIVE READING

Unison: Working within ourselves, among our church community, and beyond in the larger world, we the people of Unity Church-Unitarian:

Left side (pulpit): Create a multicultural spiritual home built on authentic relationships.

Right side (reading desk): Ground ourselves in personal practice and communal worship that grows our capacity for wonder and spiritual deepening.

Left: Articulate our Unitarian Universalist faith identity, teach it to our children, share it with others, and live it courageously in the world.

Right: Know each other in all our fullness and create an ever-widening circle of belonging for all people.

Left: Generously give and openly receive compassionate care in times of joy, sorrow, and transition.

Right: Discover and pursue our individual and collective work to advance justice, wholeness, and equity for people, our Earth, and all life on it.

Left: Create brave space for racial healing and dismantling dominant culture.

Right: Sustain and steward the church and our larger Unitarian Universalist movement for the future.

Unison: Unity Church-Unitarian fosters transformation through a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service, and joy.

*CELEBRATION OF NEW LIVES (9:00 only)

Minister: It is our faith that each child born is one more redeemer.

Congregation: By this Service of Dedication, we commit ourselves to the nurture of these children.

Minister: Are you ready to dedicate yourselves to:

Aurelia Behm

Ellison Behm

Luke James Avery

Congregation: We are prepared. We dedicate our minds and hearts to these children and their parents.

Minister: Will you strive to love and cherish them in times of struggle as well as gladness?

Congregation: We will love and cherish them always.

Minister: We acknowledge the divine spark within each child.

Congregation: May we be worthy guardians of these young lives. May we build community in which they will grow old surrounded by beauty, embraced by love, and cradled in the arms of peace.

EMBRACING MEDITATION | PRAYER

Rev. Karen Gustafson

SILENCE

ANTHEM

To Live In This World by Catherine Dalton

Unity Singers

Lyrics by Naomi Shihab Nye

Premiere of a new choral work co-commissioned by Unity Church.

"Shoulders"

A man crosses the street in rain,
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,
because his son is asleep on his shoulder.

No car must splash him.

No car drive too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world's most sensitive cargo
but he's not marked.

Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE,
HANDLE WITH CARE.

His ear fills up with breathing.

He hears the hum of a boy's dream

deep inside him.

We're not going to be able
to live in this world

if we're not willing to do what he's doing
with one another.

The road will only be wide.

The rain will never stop falling.

SERMON

The Middle of Our Mission

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz

INTERLUDE

OFFERING | OFFERTORY

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

*CLOSING HYMN

#1028 (teal hymnal) *The Fire of Commitment*

*BENEDICTION

You are free to leave during the musical postlude or remain in the Sanctuary.