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Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Giving Life the Shape of Justice

Rev. Karen Gustafson



Unity Church-Unitarian

Sunday, March 19, 2023

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

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

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.

UNITY CHURCH-UNITARIAN

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, March 19, 2023

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC Ahmed Anzaldúa, piano

PEALING THE BELL James Oberly (9:00), Sara Ford (11:00)

PRELUDE *Willful Ignorance* by Claudia Schmidt Youth Choir
Phil Carlson, guitar
Fritz Hoehn, percussion

Ooh, willful ignorance
Is a mighty entitled dangerous dance
Its magic spins you round and round
Before you know it, your guard is down

Chorus:

Boy, you never saw it coming, though it was always close at hand
Eyes shut tight to the death of rights
And now you just can't understand
Every snowflake in the avalanche cries innocence
In the end, it's all just willful ignorance

Ooh, willful ignorance
Is bound to put you in a trance
Its charm is that you'll never see
That your freedom was lost so easily

Ooh, willful ignorance
Is a very cushy circumstance
Its consequences are coming due
And it's bound to be a shock to you

CALL TO WORSHIP | KINDLING THE CHALICE FLAME Nancy Dilts

*OPENING HYMN #159 *This Is My Song*

*RESPONSIVE READING #584 *A Network of Mutuality*

EMBRACING MEDITATION | PRAYER Rev. Karen Gustafson

SILENCE

ANTHEM *Circle 'Round for Freedom* Unity Choir

READING "What Is Hope?"
By Rubem Alves, Brazilian Liberation Theologian and Poet

SERMON *UUSC: Giving Life the Shape of Justice* Rev. Karen Gustafson

OFFERING | OFFERTORY

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

*CLOSING HYMN #1017 (teal hymnal) *Building a New Way*

*BENEDICTION

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

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 given by Phyl and Doug Ostergren in celebration of the coming of spring, and their 69 years together, with much gratitude for the community they have found here at Unity Church.

Today's offering recipient, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), is a non-profit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. It supports self-determination and defends the rights of people displaced due to climate, conflict, or economic hardships. The UUSC responds to humanitarian crises as partners with people whose access to aid is most limited. This collection will support the UUSC response to the earthquake impacting Turkey and Syria. Donate at bit.ly/sundayoffering

Worship associate Nancy Dilts and her family, husband Dan Philippon and daughter Grace, live in St. Paul and joined Unity Church in 2016. After an almost 20-year career in environmental education and community outreach, she launched Nancy Dilts Wardrobe Consulting. Nancy brings together her passions — personal style, positive body image, and the environment — to help her clients feel great about how they look, using an economically and environmentally sustainable approach.

Unity's Youth Choir for grades 6-9 builds on the Children's Choir and responds to the interest and musical skills of Unity's youth and families. Led by Laura Potratz, singers and instrumentalists are welcome to join the ensemble for rehearsal on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in Ames Chapel.

Willful Ignorance was inspired by MLK's words that "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." It was written in support of those protecting Minnesota from the destructive effects of pipeline construction. Singer/songwriter Claudia Schmidt currently lives in Connecticut and recorded this song in 2016 with regular collaborator Sally Jones.

Unity Choir is a large choral ensemble and is the strong component on which Unity's choral program is built; a vital and energetic presence in our community. Its members share various levels of musical experience and a wide variety of activities and interests, all of which are brought together by their love of singing, music, and community. Ahmed Anzaldúa, director; Kathleen Kraulik, pianist