

Betsy Hearn has been attending Unity Church since she came as a single young woman seeking the light of truth and the warmth of love. She later brought her boyfriend, now husband, Drew Danielson, to the service and together they raised their two college age kids at Unity. Betsy has served on the Board of Trustees, the 2022 Ministerial Search Team, is a founding member of the UU Families group, and volunteered at every level of religious education.

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.

Unity's Women's Ensemble meets for only one half-hour each Sunday morning and to this short rehearsal time the members bring tremendous creative energy, commitment, and joy! While this group emerged and continues to function as a space that supports and empowers women, all soprano and alto singers are encouraged to apply for Unity's Women's Ensemble, including transfeminine, transmasculine, and nonbinary as well as cis male sopranos and altos. Ahmed Anzaldúa, director; Kathleen Kraulik, pianist.

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.

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Unity Church–Unitarian

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The Voluntary Church

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair



Unity Church–Unitarian

Sunday, April 21, 2024

9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 21, 2024 | 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Ahmed Anzaldúa, piano
Steve Lewis, Percussion
Callum Schultz, bass

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair

PEALING THE BELL

PRELUDE

Let the River Run Unity Choir | Women's Ensemble
By Carly Simon, arr. Craig Hella Johnson

*Let the river run
Let all the dreamers wake the nation
Come, the New Jerusalem
Silver cities rise
The morning lights the streets that lead them
And sirens call them on with a song
It's asking for the taking
Trembling, shaking
Oh, my heart is aching
We're coming to the edge
Running on the water
Coming through the fog
Your sons and daughters*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Prayer for those Gathered in Worship by Barbara Pescan

Betsy Hearn

KINDLING THE CHALICE FLAME

We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith, the light of truth and the warmth of love.

*HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (see insert)

*RESPONSIVE READING

This House by Kenneth L. Patton

This house is for the ingathering of nature and human nature.

It is a house of friendships, a haven in trouble, an open room for the encouragement of our struggle.

It is a house of freedom, guarding the dignity and worth of every person.

*It offers a platform for the free voice, for declaring, both in times of security and danger,
the full and undivided conflict of opinion.*

It is a house of truth-seeking, where scientists can encourage devotion to their quest,
where mystics can abide in a community of searchers.

It is a house of art, adorning its celebrations with melodies and handiworks.

It is a house of prophecy, outrunning times past and times present in visions of growth and progress.

This house is a cradle for our dreams, the workshop of our common endeavor.

EMBRACING MEDITATION | PRAYER | SILENCE

RESPONSE HYMN

For All That Is Our Life (see insert)

READING

Back-Scratcher by David Bumbaugh

SERMON

The Voluntary Church

Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair

OFFERING | OFFERTORY

*HYMN

Life Calls Us On (see insert)
Choral arrangement by Jason Shelton

*BENEDICTION

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community and the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

SENDING FORTH

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

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.

The flowers in the Sanctuary today honor the memory of Mary Ann Huelster, born April 14, 1925. Mary Ann consistently and repeatedly admonished family and friends, "Don't fuss about me!"; an admonition her family gladly ignores each and every spring and countless times in-between.

Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) is committed to expanding the power and justice-making capacity of Black UUs within Unitarian Universalism by providing support, information, and a variety of resources tailored to the needs of Black Unitarian Universalists. In 2019 BLUU acquired eight vacant lots in North Minneapolis with the goal of transforming those lots into actually affordable, multi-family units. This collection will be used to support this BLUU Housing Cooperative Initiative in North Minneapolis, a first-in-the-nation development for housing justice. Thanks to a generous challenge donation, contributions of any amount will be matched up to \$10,000. Donate at bit.ly/sundayoffering



Today we warmly welcome Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair, Unity's candidate for Senior Minister. Originally from East Lansing, Michigan, Rev. Dr. Oscar Sinclair followed a long path to ministry, joining the Peace Corps and starting a career in the nonprofit world. After a major health event, he realized that ministry in the Unitarian Universalist Association was how he could best express who he was, while channeling his idealism into a faith and organization he has been a part of for over twenty years. Rev. Oscar is a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland and holds a Master of Divinity Degree and a Doctor of Ministry in Church Leadership Excellence from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Since 2017 he has served as the senior minister at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, Nebraska. Rev. Oscar and his wife Stacie met in graduate school and are now parents to daughter Ailish, and black lab, Teddy.