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The Danger of a Single Story

Thoreau, Jacobs and the Culture of Individualism

Sara Ford



Unity Church–Unitarian

Sunday, August 4, 2024

10:00 a.m. | [Livestream](#)

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, August 4, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC	Ji chahe to Ishq me tere	Alia Jeraj
Please see the insert for credits and translations for today's musical selections.		
WELCOME		Sara Ford
PEALING THE BELL		
PRELUDE	Parvat Tara	
CALL TO WORSHIP KINDLING THE CHALICE FLAME		Betsy Hearn
We light this chalice as a symbol of our faith, the light of truth and the warmth of love.		
*HYMN	I Brought My Spirit to the Sea #4	Ahmed Anzaldúa, piano
READING	On the Danger of the Single Story	
EMBRACING MEDITATION PRAYER SILENCE		
READINGS	Henry David Thoreau and Harriet Jacobs	
INTERLUDE	Hai raan hai Fatima	
SERMON	The Danger of a Single Story	Sara Ford
OFFERING		
OFFERTORY	Nanhi Kali	
*HYMN	No Matter If You Live Now Far or Near #181	
*BENEDICTION EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE FLAME		
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.		
POSTLUDE	Aaj jaane ki zid na karo	

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 are given in celebration of 10 wonderful years between Marc Al and Louise Livesay-Al who were married at Unity Church, by Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs, 10 years ago this weekend. Louise and Mark write, "The years have been filled with joy between each other and with family and friends. We are grateful each day that we found one another when we did, shaped by journeys that brought us to that beautiful day. We were right on time!"

Leap Pediatric and Adolescent Care is an innovative, community-based clinic two miles northwest of Unity Church. Its mission is to advance healthcare equity and remove barriers to total child well-being by integrating families into the fabric of local wellness opportunities. Leap works with a three-pronged outreach: direct health care, health counseling, and collaboration with community-based public health. This collection will be used to cover unreimbursed care for patients who have limited health insurance or other means to pay. Donate at bit.ly/sundayoffering



Alia Jeraj (she/they) lives, sings, and learns in Mānoa Valley. She recently graduated from the University of Hawai'i with an MA focusing on a Shia-Muslim sung-poetry tradition in northern India. Raised in a multi-faith family, Alia spent the majority of her life in the Twin Cities and is grateful to be back at Unity Church.

Sara Ford has been at Unity Church on and off since she was a child. Her mom, Barbara Ford, remembers that she dropped out of the Coming of Age program, causing great embarrassment, but Sara has no recollection and so questions the assertion. She has a PhD in literature and left teaching to work for the teachers' union. She lives in St. Paul with her beloved sons and wife, Jeremy, Cullen, and Kim.

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.

Ji chahe to

Author: Hazrat Shah Hiyaz (1742-1834) / Hazrat Zaheen Shah Taagi (1902-1978)

Language: Urdu | Taught by: Ritika Ganguli | Translation: Nur Mohammad

Genre: nazm / ghazal

(This is actually two poems, but they're traditionally performed together.)

The festival of colors is being played
at the house of beloved Muhammad

Hazrat Ali has become color,
Hassan and Hussein are playing

Rejoicing at the marvel of hue,
there are shouts for joy in all directions

What unique and clever players they are
It's as if they colored the entire world

Niaz sprinkles bowls of color all around,
That one which comes out of thousands

//

Be the empty glass (be nothing) if you desire,
Or be a filled chalice if you want!

What's there to be an empty glass or a filled chalice?
Taste the Nectar of Divine Love and become intoxicated!

Intoxicated with the Nectar of Divine Love,
Narrate a tale of ecstasy!

In living this tale of ecstasy,
Be a stranger and lose yourself (Die before you die)

In this selflessness and tale of Divine intoxication,

What's there to be or not to be?
Finer is to lose the senses!

Be in the Association of His Lovers,
Masters of the way

better is to be the Divine Dust at the Beloved's threshold!
A carpet under His Holy Feet.

The dirt at the beloved's door is (but)
the Kohl for the lovers' eyes

Have strength to be like a moth and head for the Flame,
burning away all other than Him

Why hover around every flame?
Seekh Zaheen says

Even better is to bring that Divine Flame into Your Own Heart,
and be warmed by it.

Ishq me tere

Author: Hazrat Shah Niyaz (1742-1834, A sufi saint of Delhi)

Language: Urdu | Taught by: Ritika Ganguli

Translation: Alia, with assistance from Saqib Mumtaz

Genre: qawwali

Mountains of sorrow, I take on your
love now, come what may

Luxuries of life I
forsake now, come what may

Leave the madness of reason,
enter the tavern of love

From the chalice of self-annihilation
drink now, come what may

I bared the pangs of separation
from the Beloved

With a smile of pride and grace
they said, come what may

Parvat Tara

Author: Suresh Dalal

Language: Gujarati | Taught by: Preeti Gujar | Translation: Alia

Genre: poem used in Gujarati schools

(Chorus)

The mountains are your shoulder,
The lakes are your eyes
Oh God, I see you
Somewhere, somewhere, somewhere

The sea is your vast heart
The trees are your stories
In the colors of the rainbow
You play

You are the savior of swimming,
The shout of springs,
The color and fragrance of the flowers
Are your gift (Chorus)

From lions and tigers to cuckoos and nightingales,
From butterflies and bumblebees
To the sun and moon:
This is your fire

In the roar of the lion and tiger
and sound of the peacock
You play hide and seek—
Sometimes you're near, sometimes far (Chorus)

Hai raan hai Fatima

Author: unknown

Language: Urdu | Taught by Askari Naqvi

Translation: Alia, with help from Azeema Faizunnisa

Genre: soz

Fatima is bewildered, wondering how enter the Ka'aba.

The wall of the Ka'aba opens up to her, saying, "Bibi, enter from here.

"Strangers are ordered that if they enter, they should enter through the door.

"But this is your house—you should enter from anywhere."

Nanhi Kali

Author: Majrooh Sultanpuri | Composer: Sachin Dev Burman

Language: Urdu | Taught by: Ritika Ganguli | Translation: Manisha Tomer

Genre: lori (lullaby)

The little flower-bud is going to sleep

Breeze! Please come gently

In your sleep-laden wings, rock her as in a cradle

She's like a moon beam—has been brought up very delicately with care

Dear moonlight! If today you come my way

Hum a song to her gently

In your sleep-laden wings, rock her as in a cradle

If a silk cord entangle her feet

If bells from her anklet makes a noise

If my Queen wakes up, then Sleep! You amuse her

In your sleep-laden wings, rock her as in a cradle

Aaj jaane ki zid na karo

Author: Fayyaz Hashmi

Language: Urdu | Taught by: Ritika Ganguli | Translation: BollyMeaning

Genre: nazm

Tonight, don't insist on leaving

Keep sitting close to me

Tonight, don't insist on leaving

Oh I will dye, I'll be lost

Don't say such things

Tonight, don't insist on leaving

Just think for a moment, why should I not stop you.

My life seems to leave my body when you get up and go,

I swear to you, my beloved

Just agree to this request of mine

Tonight, don't insist on leaving.

Life is trapped in the prison of time,

But these are the few moments that are free

By losing them, my beloved

Let's not have a life of regret

Tonight, don't insist on leaving

What an innocent, colorful weather it is.

It is the peak of beauty and love today.

Who knows what will happen tomorrow,

Let's stop this night, tonight,

Tonight, don't insist on leaving.