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Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs, Minister Emerita

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Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries Emerita

In Celebration of Change:  
Learning to Hold More

Rev. Karen Gustafson



Unity Church–Unitarian

Sunday, September 17, 2023

9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

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

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**Unity Church–Unitarian**

733 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul 55104 • 651-228-1456

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
Sunday, September 17, 2023  
*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC Ahmed Anzaldúa

PEALING THE BELL

PRELUDE Intermezzo op. 118, n. 2 by J. Brahms  
Dedicated to Ken Ford and his family.

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Karen Gustafson

CALL TO WORSHIP | KINDLING THE CHALICE FLAME Jim Mulvey

\*OPENING HYMN #1011 Return Again  
(teal hymnal)

\*RESPONSIVE READING #655 Change Alone Is Unchanging

EMBRACING MEDITATION

Each time we gather for worship, we set aside a moment to expand the caring ministry of this congregation. 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 stand at the side of parents and teachers and all those whose primary spiritual practice is caring for children; with those who live with grief or chronic pain, with illnesses seen and unseen, with mental disability or addiction.

*We remember them.*

We pray for our neighbors in prison those who care for family members in ill health, those who struggle with loneliness and those who strive to stay afloat amidst poverty. Our lives are blessed by those who face their final days with honesty, and by those who rise above heartbreak to challenge oppression in all its forms.

*We care for them.*

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 to build the Beloved Community.

*We hold them.*

PRAYER

SILENCE

READING The Layers by Stanley Kunitz

INTERLUDE

Gymnopedie no. 1 by E. Satie  
Dedicated to Bob Steller and his family.

SERMON In Celebration of Change: Rev. Karen Gustafson  
Learning to Hold More

OFFERING | OFFERTORY

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

\*CLOSING HYMN #131 Love Will Guide Us

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Deep Peace Unity Choir

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 were gathered in honor of Janne Eller-Isaacs who appreciates their tradition and exuberance, and in memory of Rob Eller-Isaacs who approved of their abundance but fretted they wouldn't be arranged in time for the first service. From Hope Barker and Dan Huelster

Beyond Walls Urban Squash is an intensive program that combines the sport of squash, academic tutoring, and community service in a manner that successfully transforms the lives of underserved BIPOC youth. Trained tutors provide instruction with the goal of developing personal academic skills. Students play squash three times a week with the goal of competing in regional and national events. This collection will support fall programming. Donate at [bit.ly/sundayoffering](https://bit.ly/sundayoffering)



Worship associate Jim Mulvey lives in the Highland Park neighborhood of St. Paul with his wife of 51 years. Nancy and Jim joined Unity Church in the 1980s. Their twin daughters live in Bozeman, Montana, with their families. One of Jim's favorite places is the Japanese Garden at Como Park where he has volunteered weekly for more than a dozen years.

Following the 9:00 service, everyone is invited to stop by the Center Room to share in gratitude for Rev. Karen Gustafson's ministry during the 2022-2023 church year. Join us for cake and celebration!

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.