

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

ORDER OF WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 20, 2016
10:00 A.M.

Refuge and light

Illuminated by the east light
softened by spring cherry blossoms,
the white, white pillars of this sanctuary,
tall and silent, give witness
to more than a century of words
spoken in anger, joy, comfort, and sorrow,
and oft accompanied by music—
strident organ chords, the cool notes
of a jazz saxophone, vocal harmonies,
or the tap of an ancient bell—
that have woven together
a rich and colorful tapestry of souls,
never intending to speak with one voice,
and agreeing only on principles.
Yet in this sacred refuge
the congregation still looks up
and to each other for a blessing—
a poem or sign, a touch or smile—
urging them to greater peace
within and with each other,
while their lives
are still theirs to live.

— J Larsen

Order of Worship

GATHERING

BELLSOUND

PRELUDE “A Morning Prelude” — Young

WELCOME

STORY FOR ALL AGES Kate Wiig

* LIGHTING THE CHALICE

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

— Albert Schweitzer

* SINGING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR CLASSES

Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the Spirit of Love surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Nadine Keith

OFFERTORY “Two Thanksgiving Hymns” — arr. Peeters

*The Share the Plate beneficiary for the month of November is
Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)
Change for Change beneficiary is **Neighborhood Ministry.***

REFLECTING

CHORAL INTROIT “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

A MOMENT OF SILENCE concluded with a bellsound

CANON (#388) “Dona Nobis Pacem”

POEM “Refuge and light” — J. Larsen

CHORAL ANTHEM “Love” — Fettke/Grassl

SERMON “Giving Thanks in Troubled Times” Rev. Frank Rivas

AFFIRMING

* HYMN (#349) “We Gather Together”

* BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION “Love” (Reprise)

POSTLUDE “Sing to the Lord of Harvest” — Eliot

**Organist: Patricia Will Choir Director: William Miller Choir Accompanist: Elizabeth Kelly
Percussion: Stan Harper, Collin Hatcher**

Share the Plate. Each month one-half of the loose currency in the offering plate is donated to a cause with a local presence which advances important principles of Unitarianism. This month's recipient is **Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)**, a local interfaith organization of which First Unitarian is a member. We encourage you to learn more about OTOC by visiting their website www.otoc.org

Change for Change. Each week generous people put change in the collection plate. This change goes to our Sunday School youth who decide where the money can be best utilized. In the past they have contributed to Community Meals and International Bridges for Justice. This year youth have identified the recipient as Neighborhood Ministry Team, which purchases bus tickets, and food cards and provides blessings bags to people who come to our church requesting help. Your change makes a difference! Thank you for your generosity!

Rev. Frank Rivas, Minister (minister@firstuomaha.org)

Rev. Ron Knapp, Minister Emeritus

Jan Wilson, Director of Religious Education (dre@firstuomaha.org)

Carrie Helmberger, Membership Coordinator (coordinator@firstuomaha.org)

Catharine Dixon, Church Administrator (admin@firstuomaha.org)

Jenny Hastings, Nursery Coordinator

Patricia Will, Organist

William Miller, Choir Director

Elizabeth Kelly, Choir Accompanist

Stan Harper, Pianist

Robert Medrano, Custodian

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

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Omaha, Nebraska 68131

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www.firstuomaha.org

Flowers: Thank you to Beth Conover for providing today's chancel flowers.

Hospitality: The Mindful Ones Hospitality Team is serving you today. Our team serves on the third Sunday of odd months. You will recognize our team members by their green hospitality ribbons. Please let us know if you need anything or have questions.

11:00 a.m. — Women's Alliance Bake Sale — Common Room — Purchase some treats for your Thanksgiving holiday!

11:15 a.m. — First Steps Class — Whitney Young Classroom — Gather at the Visitors Table in the Common Room. You are invited to join us as we get acquainted with the basics of Unitarian Universalism and our vibrant community.

11:45 a.m. — Sunday Forum: Myths and Misconceptions of BLM (Black Lives Matter) Presented by Morgann Freeman. Answering questions and putting to rest rumors and fallacies about the Black Lives Matter movement.

6:30 p.m. — Transgender Day of Remembrance — The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-tr
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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 21 — People's Film Festival — 7:00 p.m. — Common Room

Movie: *This Changes Everything*. Go to <https://thefilm.thischangeeverything.org/about/>.

November 22 — Drop-In Meditation — 8:00 a.m. — Sanctuary

November 23-26 — Church Office Closed

November 24 — No lunch with the minister because of Thanksgiving Day.

November 27 — Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. — Water Ceremony

This year's water ceremony will focus on sharing intentions for our beloved community. Please bring a small amount of water to add to our communal basin during the ceremony itself. Water will be provided for those who forget and visitors. This intergenerational service is offered by Mystic Sojourn CUUPS.

November 28 — Book Club — 7:00 p.m. — Merritt Lounge The November book is "The Selma Awakening" by Mark D. Morrison-Reed. For more information, contact Dave at richardson.david@westside66.net.

December 5 — Black Lives Matter Book Discussion— 7:00 p.m. — Whitney Young Classroom (rescheduled from Nov. 7). Kim Dunovan will facilitate an exploration of the book "Waking up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving. You are encouraged to read the book but the format is designed so that everyone who attends can participate in the discussion. For more information, go to <http://www.debbyirving.com/the-book/>. Contact Kim Dunovan at kdunovan@cox.net or Rene Harper at sweetnlow@cox.net with any questions.

Email Auction Alert: Bills and Donor statements for participants in the Halloween Heart & Hand Auction went out early this past week. Please check your email! Paper summaries were only sent if no email of record or we happen to know you don't read your email. If you failed to receive anything, please email auction@firstuomaha.org or call Donna ([402-699-3183](tel:402-699-3183)). When bills are paid, the Auction will bring in over \$14,000 for the church! Thank you to all who made it such a success.

Women's Alliance Holiday Collection

The Women's Alliance will collect towels and washcloths for the Refugee Empowerment Center. Starting in December, a gift-wrapped holiday box will be placed in the Common Room to receive your donations. Please bring an unwrapped towel to help this organization. The mission of the Refugee Empowerment Center is to resettle and empower refugees to become more self-sufficient through direct services and educational programs. Questions? Contact Kathi at kathryn.lewis.kl@gmail.com

For more events, go to: <http://www.firstuomaha.org/events>