

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

ORDER OF WORSHIP

AUGUST 19, 2018

10:30 A.M.

The Fellowship of Free Souls

We believe in a fellowship that shall unite people not in the bonds of Christian, Jewish, or Muslim love — or any other form of sectarian love — but in the holier bonds of human love; going down, beneath all that separates and estranges, to the principles of freedom and understanding; below religions to religion; beneath all sacraments to the universal impulse that bends the soul in reverence and awe; beneath all forms to the faith that strives to express itself in and through them: thus touching common foundations and securing a common fellowship, each helping the other by whatever their deeper insights may reveal — a union not of religious systems, but of free souls, united to build on the basis of truth, justice, and love, the commonwealth of humanity. — Alfred W. Martin

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 **Siena/Francis House** which welcomes, shelters and empowers individuals experiencing homelessness to navigate their own path to safe and appropriate housing. We encourage you to learn more about Siena/Francis House by visiting their website www.sienafrancis.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. Michelle LaGrave, Interim Minister

Rev. Ron Knapp, Minister Emeritus

Rev. Frank Rivas, 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)

Patricia Will, Organist

William Miller, Choir Director

J. Gawf, Choir Accompanist

Stan Harper, Early Morning Riser Director

Andrea Laudi, Nursery Coordinator

Meagan McIntosh, Nursery Worker

Robert Medrano, Custodian

3114 Harney Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68131

(402) 345-3039

www.firstuomaha.org

Order of Worship

August 19, 2018

10:30 A.M.

BELLSOUND

PRELUDE

“Hey Brother” — Avicii

OPENING WORDS

“The Web of Life” — Robert Weston

* **OPENING HYMN (#290)** “Bring, O Past, Your Honor”

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kate Wiig

* CHALICE LIGHTING

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.

* **AFFIRMATION (see front cover)** “The Fellowship of Free Souls” — Alfred W. Martin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nadine Keith

OFFERTORY

The Share the Plate beneficiary for the month of August is

Siena/Francis House.

The Change for Change beneficiary is the **Neighborhood Ministry Team.**

(*Indicates congregation stands as they are able.)

READINGS

“The Seasons of the Soul” — Robert Weston

Summer

“Summer Meditation” Read by Nadine Keith

Autumn Speaks

Read by Jerre Tritsch

Winter

“The Snow Drifts Down” Read by Denise Allain

Spring

“The Wonder of Reviving Life” Read by Larry Goeser

MUSIC

“Swimming to the Other Side” — Pat Humphries

SERMON

“The Web of Life: Spending Time with Robert Weston”
Rev. Ron Knapp

* **CLOSING HYMN (see insert)** “The Poets Eye”

* **CLOSING WORDS (see insert)** “A Year Begins Today” — Robert Weston

POSTLUDE

Early Morning Risers
Pianist & EMR Director: Stan Harper

“A Year Begins Today”

Responsive Reading by Robert Weston

(Congregation will read the italicized lines)

A year is gone.

It matters not when it began

For it has ended now.

There were other years,

And some began with a birthday

And some with a death;

Some with one day of the month and some with another,

Some began with a song and others with a lament,

But today I start another year, whatever the month or seasons;

It is what lies before me that concerns me now.

There will be decisions and tasks;

There will be drudgery, achievement and defeat.

There will be joy and grief,

All the raw stuff of experience

Waiting for me to shape, to fashion as I will,

And it will never become just what I planned.

However it may appear to others

I can turn it to knowledge and wisdom

Or folly.

If it be hard, I can make of it strength;

It may become bone, sinew and steel

Or ashes and waste.

Someone might say, "It all depends on what the year may bring,"

But what I make of it depends on me.