

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

ORDER OF SERVICE

JANUARY 27, 2019

10:30 A.M.

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. Our Share the Plate recipient for January is **Habitat for Humanity**. Last year, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha completed more than 40 homes. Homes are built with donor contributions, volunteer labor and donated materials. Families who partner with Habitat Omaha are required to attend home ownership workshops and complete up to 350 hours of Sweat Equity by helping on the build site or at Omaha's Habitat ReStore. Their monthly mortgage payments are then used to build more homes. Habitat Omaha builds new houses and renovates existing homes. These houses are modest and affordable. To learn more, visit: <https://habitatomaha.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, Sanctuary Singers Director

J. Gawf, Sanctuary Singers Accompanist

Stan Harper, Early Morning Risers Director

Andrea Laudi, Nursery Coordinator

Robert Medrano, Custodian

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Omaha, Nebraska 68131

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www.firstuomaha.org

Welcome. Our worship service this morning is uniquely prophetic: it calls to us who identify as white to listen, humbly and perhaps with some discomfort, to the lived reality of black Unitarian Universalists in our midst. This discomfort is both a gesture of hospitality to voices that have not been heard enough, and a sign that we're growing in the right direction. If you're joining us today as a guest, know that you are witnessing this Unitarian Universalist congregation doing sacred work: collectively, we will wrestle with what it means to be a majority-white faith whose anti-racist intentions have not always been borne out. We invite you to witness this moment of transparency and vision, and to join us again on a future Sunday.

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January 27, 2019
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BELLSOUND

INTRODUCTION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peg Pidgeon

WELCOME

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

PRELUDE

“Hush”

— Traditional

CALL TO WORSHIP

Read by Della Bynum

— Viola Abbitt

*** CHALICE LIGHTING**

We light our flaming chalice as a beloved people united in love
and thirsting for restorative justice.

May it melt away the tethers that uphold whiteness in our midst.
May it spark in us a spirit of humility. May it ignite in us radical
love that transforms our energy into purposeful action.

This is a chalice of audacious hope. This chalice shines a light on our
Shared past, signaling our intention to listen deeply, reflect wisely,
And move boldly toward our highest ideals.

— Rebekah Savage

*** OPENING HYMN (#1073 teal book) “The Earth is My Mother”**

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Rosharra Owens

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.

LAMENTATION FOR TWO VOICES

— Erika A. Hewitt & Rebekah Savage

Read by Mary Kay Peters & Della Bynum

(*Indicates congregation stands as they are able.)

PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“In a Sentimental Mood”

— Duke Ellington

The Share the Plate beneficiary for the month of January is
Habitat for Humanity.

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

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

REFLECTION

“Tired of Being Silent”

— Rayla D. Mattson

*** HYMN (#95 gray book) “There is More Love Somewhere”**

A RITUAL OF LAMENTATION

— Carol Thomas Cissell

MUSIC

“Redemption Song”

— B Marley

*** CLOSING HYMN (#1007 teal book) “There’s a River Flowin’ in My Soul”**

*** EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE**

*** BENEDICTION**

— Rebekah Savage

POSTLUDE

“Stand by Me”

— C. Tindley

Early Morning Risers
Accompanist: Stan Harper

Use the QR code to the right to see the news:

