

First Unitarian Church of Omaha
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Rev. Michelle LaGrave, Interim Minister
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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
Robert Medrano, Custodian

First Unitarian Church of Omaha
1918 – 2018
Centennial Celebration & Rededication
September 30, 2018
10:30 a.m.



Service of Celebration & Rededication

Prelude "Largo" — Handel

Welcome William Baxter, Chairman, Board of Trustees

*** Doxology (sung to tune of #371)**

From all that dwell below the skies let songs of hope and faith arise;
let peace, good will on earth be sung through every land, by every tongue.

*** Hymn (#290)** "Bring O Past, Your Honor"

Story for All Ages Kate Wiig

Choral Anthem "With a Voice of Singing" — Composed 1923; Martin Shaw

Introduction of Speakers

Alan McDonald, Architect
Grace Holdrege, Women's Alliance
Sarah Joslyn, Board of Trustees

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.

Offertory "Andante" — Mendelssohn

Today's Offering will be devoted to the Preserve Our Building Fund.

Remarks President William Howard Taft

Act of Rededication — Responsive Reading Rev. Michelle LaGrave

We call to mind the true-hearted of other days who loved and labored and died for truth. We hold in loving remembrance those who have gone before us. To their memory and services, we dedicate this house.

To the memory of our beloved dead, to the gentle and true of former times, to all who have unloosed the bonds of ignorance and wrong, we dedicate this house.

(*Indicates congregation stands as they are able.)

Let us dedicate it, moreover, to the living; young and old, rich and poor, strong and weak; to every heart lured by temptation, to every mind groping in darkness, to every life suffering from another's wrong, to every weary and heavy laden soul. To all human need, let us dedicate this house.

To the ministry of the strong to the weak, to the righting of human wrongs, to the giving of light, hope, courage and spiritual health to all human hearts, we dedicate this house.

Let us dedicate it also to the proclamation of the truth that sets us free. To the freedom from all prejudice, to reverence for all worth of the past, and to the eager acceptance of all good which the future may unfold, let us dedicate this house.

To the fellowship of all reverent seekers after knowledge, to the communion of all earnest bearers of light, we dedicate this house.

Let us dedicate it to obedience to the moral law, to spiritual honor and staunch integrity, to the dignity of faithful citizenship, to the sanctification of thought and toil by clean hands and a pure heart, let us dedicate this house.

To the upbuilding of character in all things honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, we dedicate this house.

Let us also dedicate it to Justice, to Freedom, to Government of the People, by the People, and for the People, in a world-wide Democracy, let us dedicate this house.

To the Fellowship of Humankind, we dedicate this house.

*** Hymn (#121)** "We'll Build a Land"

*** Benediction** — Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

Postlude "Hallelujah Chorus" — Handel

Patricia Will, Organist
First Unitarian Church Choir
William Miller, Choir Director
J. Gawf, Choir Accompanist

From the Dedication Ceremony on September 29, 1918

For more than five years the supporters of this Church have been looking forward to the erection of a new edifice. It is with deep gratification that they see their hope fulfilled, and with a sense of gratitude to those whose services and contributions have made the achievement possible.

The type of architecture is believed to be appropriate to the principles for which the Church stands, as well as to the purposes for which it is used. Religious liberty is the distinguishing principle of the Unitarian faith. Religious liberty has been as well a conspicuous and impelling motive in the history of the United States from the time of the settlement of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. Religious liberty is moreover the mainspring of civil liberty, the cause for which the thirteen colonies united in the War of Independence and in the formation of the Republic. Closely related, therefore, as is the Liberal faith with the history of the United States, it is altogether fitting that this building should be of the type found so often in the colonies, and should resemble in its general lines the shrines of American Liberty.

More marked is the resemblance to certain churches in Virginia and to the meeting-houses of New England. True to the tradition of those meeting-houses, which in their earliest days were used both as halls for town meetings and as houses of worship, this building is designed to be not only a Temple of Liberty and a hospitable church home, but also, and above all, a house of God wherein to "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Honesty, simplicity, grace, dignity, chastity—these are things of the Spirit, attributes of the Most High, to which man is bidden aspire, and these are the qualities which the church building is designed to express.

By its likeness to the churches of the Puritans and Pilgrims this building is linked with the history of the Christian religion. By its classic features the building suggests also the stately temples of antiquity.

It is the hope of the builders that the influence of the institution as a house of worship and a place of service to humanity may be so beneficent as to amply justify its existence.

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Architects

John McDonald and Alan McDonald

Builder

Grant Parsons

Building Committee

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Mrs. Charles W. Russell

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William Newton

Finance Committee for the Building

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