

**Resources:**

The meditation on the front page is from *I See You Too: When Unitarian/Universalists Gather for Worship*, A collection of worship materials from around the world. Prepared for the meeting of the ICUU, Prague, 2003. Edited by Jill McAllister and Cliff Reed.

The hymns and readings can be found in *Singing the Living Tradition* published by the Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston, 1993.

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\* The asterisk used in this curriculum in Unitarian\*Universalism stands for “and/or” to include Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist groups that are part of our international movement. The flower shape of the asterisk helps remind us that we are part of an ever-changing garden.



**Central and Western Europe**

*Flower Communion Service*



All around us, the world is born anew.  
Flowers and trees are audibly rejoicing.  
The birds are singing hymns in praise of the miracle.  
We are all part of this mystery.

*Lene Lund Shoemaker - Denmark  
(from Spring Equinox Meditation)*

Autour de nous, le monde est né de nouveau.  
Les fleurs et les arbres réjouissent.  
Les oiseaux chantent du miracle.  
Nous sommes aussi une partie de ce mystère.

*(French translation)*

Todo alrededor de nosotros, el mundo nace de nuevo.  
Las flores y los árboles gozan audiblemente.  
Los pájaros cantan himnos elogiando el milagro.  
Todos nosotros somos parte de este misterio.

*(Spanish translation)*

**Call to Worship** *Ringing of the bell. Place your flower in the vase provided.*

**Preliminaries** Announcements, volunteers to light the chalice, lead readings, etc.

**Chalice Lighting** We light this candle as a symbol of the light within every human heart.

*(Spanish)* Encendemos esta vela como símbolo de la luz que existe en todo corazón humano.

*(Danish)* Vi tander dette lys som et symbol på det lys som findes i ethvert menneskehjerte.

*(German)* Wir entunden diese Kerse als ein Symbol für das Licht im Herzen jedes Menschen.

**Hymn** **Mother Spirit, Father Spirit**

*(#8)*  
*Norbert Capek*  
Mother Spirit, Father Spirit, where are you?  
In the sky song, in the forest sounds your cry.  
What to give you, what to call you, what am I?

*(Translated by Richard Boeke)*  
Many drops are in the ocean, deep and wide.  
Sunlight bounces off the ripples to the sky.  
What to give you, what to call you, who am I?

Mother Spirit, Father Spirit, take our hearts.  
Take our breath and let our voices sing our parts.  
Take our hands and let us work to shape our art.

**Check-In** *Take a minute or two to share briefly a high or low point of your life this past week.*

**Reading** **Flower Communion Prayer**

*(#723)*  
*Norbert Capek*  
*(adapted)*  
In the name of Providence, which implants in the seed the future of the flower and in our hearts the longing for people to live in harmony;

*In the name of the highest, in whom we move and who makes the mother and father, the brother and sister, lover and loner what they are;*

In the name of the sages and great religious leaders, who sacrificed their lives to hasten the coming of mutual respect –

*Let us renew our resolution – sincerely to be real brothers and sisters regardless of any kind of bar which estranges us from each other.*

In this holy resolve may we be strengthened knowing that we are God's family;  
that one spirit, the spirit of love, unites us;  
and endeavor for a more perfect and more joyful life. Amen.

**Sitting in Silence**

**Consecration of the Flowers (#724, Norbert Capek)**

Infinite Spirit of Life, we ask thy blessing on these, thy messengers of fellowship and love.

May they remind us, amid diversities of knowledge and of gifts, to be one in desire and affection, and devotion to thy holy will.

May they also remind us of the value of comradeship, of doing and sharing alike.

May we cherish friendship as one of thy most precious gifts.

May we not let awareness of another's talents discourage us, or sully our relationship, but may we realize that, whatever we can do, great or small, the efforts of all of us are needed to do thy work in this world.

**Flower Communion**

*It is time now to share in the Flower Communion. Select a flower from the vase that is different from the one you brought. As you take your chosen flower, note its particular shape and beauty. It is a gift that someone else has brought to you; it represents that person's unique humanity, and therefore deserves your kindest touch. Let us share joyfully in this Unitarian\*Universalist ritual of oneness and love.*

**Sharing**

What are your thoughts on the Flower Communion as compared to a traditional communion ritual?

*Listen deeply as members share their reflections. Do not respond at this time; just listen.*

**Discussion**

*This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.*

**Extinguishing the Chalice**

*Herbert Napiersky*  
*Germany*

While still a single light lights up all the world's darkness, there will be joy on earth that makes us strong for life.

*(Translated by Henning Hraban Ramm)*

Solang noch ein Licht erhellt alle Dunkelheit der Welt, wird's auf Erden Freude geben, die uns stark ins Leben stellt.

**Benediction**

Take your light into the world.  
Be beacons of love and joy for all of humanity.