

Resources:

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

The chalice lighting is from the collection of Global Chalice lightings available at www.icuu.net.



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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.

Scandinavia and Eastern Europe

Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest of truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.

To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve human need,
To the end that all souls shall grow into
harmony with the Divine –

Thus do we covenant with each other
and with God.

- arranged by L. Griswold Williams

Call to Worship *Ringing of the bell*

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

Chalice Lighting We have gathered here to light the chalice with a flame that symbolizes freedom - of expression, faith and other individual liberties. Flame that brings light, helps us to see, and fends off the darkness. Flame that warms us up when it is cold, either outside or in our hearts. Let's have a moment of meditation.

*Aki Pulli
Finland*

Hymn **Come, Come, Whoever You Are**
(#188) Come, come, whoever you are, wanderer, worshiper,
lover of leaving. Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again come.

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

Reading **Impassioned Clay**
(#654) Deep in ourselves resides the religious impulse.
Out of the passions of our clay it rises.

We have religion when we stop deluding ourselves that we are self-sufficient, self-sustaining or self-derived.

We have religion when we hold some hope beyond the present, some self-respect beyond our failures.

We have religion when our hearts are capable of leaping up at beauty, when our nerves are edged by some dream in our heart.

We have religion when we have an abiding gratitude for all that we have received.

We have religion when we look upon people with all their failings and still find in them good; when we look beyond people to the grandeur in nature and to the purpose in our own heart.

We have religion when we have done all that we can, and then in confidence entrust ourselves to the life that is larger than ourselves.

Sitting in Silence

Sharing
*Do you consider yourself a religious person? Why or why not?
Listen deeply as members share their reflections. Do not respond at this time; just listen.*

Discussion
This is a time to respond supportively to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts.

Hymn
(#300)
*Alicia S.
Carpenter*

With Heart and Mind
With heart and mind and voice and hand
may we this time and place transcend
to make our purpose understood:
a mortal search for mortal good,
a firm commitment to the goal
of justice, freedom, peace for all.

A mind that's free to seek the truth;
a mind that's free in age and youth
to choose a path no threat impedes,
wherever light of conscience leads.
Our martyrs died so we could be
a church where every mind is free.

A heart that's kind, a heart whose search
make Love the spirit of our church,
where we can grow and each one's gift
is sanctified, and spirits lift,
where every door is open wide
for all who choose to step inside.

Benediction
*Theodore Parker
USA*

Be ours a religion which, like sunshine, goes everywhere;
its temple, all space; its shrine, the good heart;
its creed, all truth; its ritual, works of love;
its profession of faith, divine living.

Extinguishing the Chalice
Lai butu miers pasaule. (Latvian)
May peace prevail on Earth.