

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

Wisdom of Solomon I called on God,
and the spirit of Wisdom came to me...
I do not hide her wealth,
for it is an unfailing treasure for mortals.

Benediction

Share your wisdom with the world.
Be open to the wisdom of others.

International Council of Unitarians and Universalists



Africa

Resources:

The chalice lighting is from the collection available on the ICUU website
www.icuu.net

The tune to Siyahamba is available at <http://ingeb.org/spiritua/siyahamb.mid>

The tune and pronunciation of the Zulu words are available at
http://www.kwasizabantu.com/audio/choruses/learn_some_zulu_choruses_.htm

Chalice design by Marilyn B. Walker and Pamela Walker.

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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.

12/2005 <http://www.icuu.net/resources/curriculum.html>



Blessed is the fire that burns deep in the soul. It is the flame of the human spirit touched into being by the mystery of life. It is the fire of reason; the fire of compassion; the fire of community; the fire of justice; the fire of faith. It is the fire of love burning deep in the human heart; the divine glow in every life.

Eric Heller-Wagner

Call to Worship Use a drum, shaker, or other traditional instrument of Africa.

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

Chalice Lighting As we gather in the shadow of our mountain,

Karien van der Walt The ocean laps around our feet.

(South Africa) We reach deep for the silence within...

Feel the rhythm of the ancient drum...

(In English) We light our flame, it lifts us high.

Our rainbow seems alight.

Diverse as we are

Together as one!

Our flame will shine afar

And guide our journey's light.

(In Afrikaans) Ons vergader in die skadu van ons berg.

Branders spoel om ons heen!

Ons streef na dieper inner stilte...

Voel die ritme van eeu ou trom...

Die aansteek van ons vlam, dit hef ons hoog!

Ons reenboog skyn verlig!

Uiteenlopend soos ons is, tersame as een.

Gloeierend is ons vlam van ver, dit lei ons reistog's pad.

Song **Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos**
(We are Marching in the Light of God)

(South African Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos' (4X)

freedom song Siyahamba, hamba

in Zulu) Siyahamba, hamba

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

Siyahamba, hamba

Siyahamba, hamba

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(In English) We are marching in the light of God (4X)

We are marching, marching

We are marching, marching

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching

We are marching, marching

We are marching in the light of God.

(Feel free to add new verses to this song such as "We are singing in the light of God or we are dancing in the light of God. See Resources on the back page for learning the tune and pronunciation of Zulu words).

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

Reading **Why Wisdom is Everywhere – A Nigerian Folktale**

A long time ago, Anansi the Spider, had all the wisdom in the world stored in a huge calabash gourd. Nyame, the sky god, had given it to him. Anansi was told to share it with everyone.

The pot was full of wonderful ideas and skills, and everyday Anansi looked in the pot and learned new things. Anansi became greedy. He liked having all the wisdom for himself. "I will not share the treasure of knowledge with everyone. I will keep it for myself and become wealthy and powerful."

Anansi decided to hide the wisdom on top of a tall tree. First he took some vines and wove some strong string with them. He tied one end of the string firmly around the pot and the other end around his waist so that the pot hung in front of him.

Anansi then began to climb the tree. He struggled as he climbed because the pot of wisdom kept bumping against his belly and getting in his way.

Anansi's son watched as his father struggled up the tree. "Father, if you tie the pot to your back, it will be easier to cling to the tree and climb," said his son.

So, Anansi tied the pot to his back and continued to climb the tree, with much more ease than before though he felt annoyed and angry: "A young one with a little common sense knows more than I, and I have the pot of wisdom!" This thought boiled inside of him.

By the time Anansi got to the top of the tree, he was very angry. In his anger, he threw down the pot of wisdom. The pot broke, and bits of wisdom flew in every direction. The people found pieces scattered everywhere. If they wanted to, people could take some and even share it with family and friends.

That is why to this day, no one person has ALL the world's wisdom. People everywhere share small pieces of it whenever they exchange ideas.

*"There is no way to hold all the world's wisdom in a calabash."
(an Ashanti saying)*

Sharing *What is wisdom? What wisdom do you carry with you that you can share?*

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

(Service continued on back)