

Resources:

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.

United States of America

It is our faith that each child born is one more redeemer.
We commit ourselves to the nurture of our children.

We acknowledge the divine spark within each child.

May we be worthy guardians of these young lives.
May we build a community in which they will grow old
surrounded by beauty, embraced by love, and cradled
in the arms of peace.

- *Robert Eller-Isaacs, USA*
(adapted)

Call to Worship *Ringing of the bell*

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

Chalice Lighting We gather in reverence before the wonder of life.
Sophia Lyon Fahs The wonder of this moment. The wonder of being together.

Hymn **I Seek the Spirit of a Child**
(#338) I seek the spirit of a child,
Carl G. Seaburg the child who meets his life naturally,
the child who sings the world alive,
and greets the morning sun with glee.
Children are real beyond all art.
May I see: Joy's a gift to our heart.

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

Reading **The Great End in Religious Instruction**
(#652) The great end in religious instruction
William Ellery Channing is not to stamp our minds upon the young,
but to stir up their own;
Not to make them see with our eyes,
But to look inquiringly and steadily with their own
Not to give them a definite amount of knowledge,
but to inspire a fervent love of truth;
Not to form an outward regularity,
but to touch inward springs.
Not to bind them by ineradicable prejudices
to our particular sect or peculiar notions,
But to prepare them for impartial, conscientious
judging of whatever subjects may be offered
to their decision;
Not to burden the memory, but to quicken
and strengthen the power of thought;
Not to impose religion upon them in the form of
arbitrary rules, but to awaken the conscience,
the moral discernment.
In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul, to excite
and cherish spiritual life.

Sitting in Silence

Sharing

*What do you remember about your religious education as a child?
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.

Hymn
(#413) (*adapted*)
Natalie Sleeth

Often used to sing children to their classes.

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace.
Go now in peace
May the Spirit of Love surround you.
Everywhere, everywhere,
You may go.

Extinguishing the Chalice

(#717, *abridged*) New life comes to us as a gift.
George Kimmich Beach Each new life makes its demand,
Exacts our attentiveness,
Enlists and organizes our energies,
And blesses us.

May we be worthy of the gift,
And glad receivers of the blessing.