

International Council of Unitarians and Universalists

Resources:

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

The chalice lighting is from the ANZUA (Australia and New Zealand Unitarian Association) Mission Statement.

The Norito is a Shinto-style prayer addressed to the kami (Spirits). Retrieved February 2005 from <http://firstuucolumbus.org/sermons/mb19990822.htm>

The opening meditation and Extinguishing of the Chalice are from *One and Universal* edited by John Midgley, published by Skinner House Books, Boston, 2002 for the ICUU www.uua.org/skinner and from the ICUU website: 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.



Australia, New Zealand, and parts of Asia

Here, in a remote corner of remote islands,
At the very edge of world society –
A world itself only a tiny speck in a vast universe -
Here, we meet again and meditate, and wonder
And give thanks together.

We have so much that we must never take for granted.
May our times together quicken our awareness
Of our very special blessings in what must be
One of the loveliest areas of our lovely planet Earth.

May we be of those who cherish the earth.

- Elspeth R. Vallance, New Zealand
(adapted)

Call to Worship *Ringing of the bell*

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

Chalice Lighting Through our sharing, may we gain a sense of place in the
ANZUA complex web of creation and, as we radiate the joy of creative
life, may we feel the spirit of freedom, peace and harmony.

Hymn **Morning Has Broken**
(#38) Morning has broken like the first morning,
Eleanor Farjeon Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

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

Reading **Norito, Shinto-style Prayer**
Mark Bellitini With reverence and a sense of awe I speak,
knowing that you, oh Great Nature, are all around me
like a mirror in which I can see myself...
in scented breath of wind, in arc of rising sun,
in branch of evergreen, in bowl of brown rice,
in a wooden box of cold rice wine,
in the bright eyes of all who gaze upon the looking glass
of the world with me.

I have no final name to give to you,
and I try not to lay my own face on your facelessness.
I do not enter into futile debates
as to whether you are a *you* or not.
I simply bow before the nourishment of the world,
and the mystery that everything is,
with sorrow for all who suffer,
and joy with all who rejoice.

May there be peace on earth wherever
we human beings can and dare to have a say.
May our efforts be fruitful,
may our minds be bright,
may our hearts beat with a tender music
soft as the cherry petals of spring
or the chirping air of summer evening.

I speak these words with awe,
in this place and no other,
in this moment and no other.
Hear me o *kami*.

Sitting in Silence

Sharing
*Is a connection with nature part of your religious understanding and practices?
If so, in what ways?
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
(#175)
*Alicia S.
Carpenter*

We Celebrate the Web of Life
We celebrate the web of life,
Its magnitude we sing,
For we can see divinity in every living thing.

A fragment of the perfect whole
In cactus and in quail,
As much in tiny barnacle,
As in the great blue whale.

Of ancient dreams we are the sum,
Our bones link stone to star,
And bind our future worlds to come
With worlds that were and are.

Respect the water, land, and air
Which gave all creatures birth;
Protect the lives of all that share
The glory of the earth.

Benediction
*Maori Valediction
Geoffrey Usher
Australia*

May the calm be widespread;
May the sea glisten like greenstone;
And may the shimmer of sunlight ever cross your pathway
in life, now and always.

Extinguishing the Chalice

*Walter Jayawardene,
Sri Lanka, (adapted)* We are the children of mother earth. Human creatures
and beasts form the soul of the earth.
Our earth - the habitat of love.