

Resources

To hear the music to the chant *Building Bridges*, visit <http://www.cyberus.ca/~phoenix/hedra/chants.htm>

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

The chalice lighting, prayers, and readings are from *One and Universal* edited by John Midgley, published by Skinner House Books, Boston, 2002 for the ICUU. www.uua.org/skinner

The prayer on the front cover is a translation of a song sung by members of Holdeen India Programme which is dedicated to bringing an end to the slavery and poverty endured by bonded laborers in India. The Holdeen Program is supported by the UUA and other international U*U groups. This song is used with permission from the author. You can learn more at <http://www.uua.org/ga/ga03/2051speech2.html>

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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.

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International Council of Unitarians and Universalists

India

Our Prayer of the Day

*This is the dream of my life
May it come true
May the children of human beings
Live with human dignity*

*May no one sell their bodies
To quell the pangs of hunger,
And may my inner urge ever be
To destroy oppression*

*May the flowers yet to bloom
Not be trampled underfoot
May every breath I take
Help new flowers to bloom*

*May I never be weak, vulnerable
And powerless
May I find within myself
The strength to contain storms*

*The night that has just passed
Was the longest and darkest
Let the emerging rays
Live forever in the huts of poor*

*May those who have no food
And no dignity, be my inspiration
May every step I take today
Be in the service of that God*

*This is my prayer
May it come true
May the children of human beings
Live with human dignity*

Vivek Pandit

Call to worship *Ringing of the chime*

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

Chalice lighting We light this chalice, large enough to contain all we bring – all our differences, all our lives – as a symbol of our hopes, and a beacon of light to guide us toward our visions.
Anonymous

Hymn **Oh Young and Fearless Prophet**
(#276)
O young and fearless Prophet of ancient Galilee;
Your life is still a summons to serve humanity,
To make our thoughts and actions less prone to please the crowd,
To stand with humble courage for truth with hearts unbowed.

Prayer Let us be thankful for being able to be here together,
Khasi Hills, And may we hold in our thoughts those who are not.
India (adapted) Let us attend to the words we sing and speak and hear,
That they may help us to live better lives.
And in the spaces and the stillness
Let us feel the Divine Presence –
with us and in us always.

Song **Building Bridges**
(sing as a round)
Building bridges between our divisions,
I reach out to you and you reach out to me
With all of our voices and all of our visions
Friends, we shall make such sweet harmony

Reading Oh God, Lord and Master, a thousand thanks to you;
Khasi Hills, Lord, the Keeper of human life and Law Giver
India To all our human existence in the world –
Under heaven and over the earth,
You have given us our clan and its ancestral allegiance,
Our custom, our covenant and the sustaining power to
Keep intact our unity of kinship.
Manifold are our commitments and our
Frailties are increasing more in your sight.
I will only raise my thanksgiving to You
By exalting Your Holy Name.
But love and pity are Yours, guidance and guardianship, Yours;
Sustain and assist us.
Show us the way and path, that we may do well,
Grow healthy and prosperous;
That we may increase in race, within our clan embrace,
Oh God, infinite and almighty in all things,
I bow down my head at your feet.

Homily The Reverend Eva Hochgraf says, “Khasis have a love affair with God... God is that important in their lives. This is true of all Khasis. Though, like us they don’t have any creed to become Unitarian, they all do believe in God... they can’t conceive of a person who couldn’t or wouldn’t believe in God... they feel sorry for those who don’t believe in God.”

Onderson Mowrie writes, “In everything, [a Khasi] is made to feel the closeness of the creator and to see the moving Hand beyond his natural life, beyond his individual ego, something other than the needs and interests of his vital and physical nature. It [religion] is not the cloak or robe that we put on but the very life blood and soul of our race.”

Sitting in Silence

Sharing *How do you respond to the reading and the information about Khasi Unitarians and their relationship to their Creator? What is the “very life blood and soul” in your life? Listen deeply as members share their reflections. Do not respond at this time; just listen.*

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

Closing Prayer Show us the right path to follow in your footsteps. Keep us always safe, to walk aright and to draw closer to your mighty presence.
*Unitarian Church
Congregation,
Madras, India
(adapted)*

Closing hymn **Wake, Now, My Senses**
(#298)
Wake now my senses, and hear the earth call,
Feel the deep power of being in all;
Keep, with the web of creation your vow,
Giving, receiving as love shows us how.

Wake, now my reason, reach out to the new;
Join with each pilgrim who quests for the true
Honor the beauty and wisdom of time;
Suffer thy limit, and praise the sublime.

Extinguishing the Chalice

Khublei (koo blay)

Now turn to your neighbor and say "Khublei." It means, God bless, also hello and good bye.