

## 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](http://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>

*The Garden of Unitarian\*Universalism* may not be published or used in any sort of profit-making manner. It is solely for the use of individuals and congregations to learn about international Unitarians and Universalists. Copies of the material may be made for educational use or for use in worship. The entire curriculum may be viewed and downloaded by going to <http://www.icuu.net/resources/curriculum.html> This project is funded in part by the Fund for Unitarian Universalism

Every effort has been made to properly acknowledge and reference sources and to trace owners of copyrighted material. We regret any omission and will, upon written notice, make the necessary correction(s) in subsequent editions.

\* 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>



## 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.*