

Unitarian Universalist Church West – Order of Service – April 23, 2023

“It’s Nature! Don’t Resist!”

The Rev. Julie Stoneberg

1. **Prelude** – “Bruyères (Heather)” by Claude Debussy - performed by Ruben Piirainen, Music Director
2. **Welcome** – Colleen Gresk, Board of Trustees representative
3. **Call to Worship** – “All Our Relations” by Gary Kowalski – Rev. Julie Stoneberg
4. **Singing Together** – “This Pretty Planet” by John Forster & Tom Chapin
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This pretty planet spinning through space,
You're a garden, you're a harbor, You're a holy place,

Golden sun going down, Gentle blue giant, spin us around.
All through the night, safe 'til the morning light.

5. **Chalice Lighting** – “Committed to Respond” by Lynn Harrison – Colleen Gresk and Rev. Julie
(Please join in reading; if you are joining us at home, you’re invited to kindle a chalice or candle there.)

Leader: Committed to respond to the call of a wounded world...

South: We join together this day with loving hearts, hands and minds.

Embracing the interconnected web of water, air and earth...

We light a fire of sustaining hope, ever bright with love and justice.

North: May we bring forth this day new wisdom, strength and courage

To create a new world not of wealth, but well-being.

A world of new peace and abundance for all.

South: As we give thanks for this earth, our shared and singular home,

May we dedicate ourselves to its ongoing care.

North: Rising to the calls deep within us, and all around us...

May we respond today and always with courage and with love.

6. **Story for All Ages** – “We Are Better Together” by Bill McKibben – Dave Cicero, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

7. **Recessional** - “As You Go, May Joy Surround You” written by Piirainen/Lynch

As you go, may joy surround you, As you go, go in peace.

Know our love is with you always – As you go, as you go.

8. **Meditation Reading** – “Love Letter to the Earth” by Thich Nhat Hanh - read by Louise VerWert

9. **Joys and Concerns**

10. **Prayer** - “Bring Us Close to the Earth” by Lyn Cox – Rev. Julie

11. **Reading** - “Chief Seattle’s Speech” - an excerpt* - read by Kathy Randall

*There are several versions of this speech/letter, and controversy about its origin.

HUMANS ARE PART OF THE WEB OF LIFE.
WHAT WE DO TO THE PLANET,
WHAT WE DO TO OTHER SPECIES,
AND WHAT WE DO TO OTHER PEOPLE,
WE END UP DOING TO
OURSELVES

from John Robbins

12. **Anthem** - “Fight Song” by Rachel Platten and Dave Bassett, arr. by Jonathan Miller; performed by UUCW Adult Choir with Jess Hamel, piano and Ruben Piirainen, conductor
13. **Message** - “It’s Nature! Don’t Resist!” – Rev. Julie Stoneberg
14. **Interlude** – Prelude reprise
15. **Offering Words** – Colleen Gresk
16. **Offertory Music** – “To a Wild Rose” by Edward MacDowell - performed by Ruben Piirainen
17. **Love Notes to the Earth: a ritual**
“Entwined” by Stephen M. Shick - Rev. Julie Stoneberg
18. **Singing Together** – #1064 “Blue Boat Home” by Roland Hugh Prichard and Peter Mayer
19. **Closing Words** – “As surely as we belong to the universe” by Margaret A Keip – Rev. Julie
20. **Postlude** – “Tideline” by Barbara Higbie - performed by Ruben Piirainen

Our Split the Plate partner for April is Street Angels Milwaukee.

How to Give:

IN-PERSON: Loose cash and contributions (checks/cash) labeled “split” will be shared this month’s Split the Plate partner organization.

ONLINE: Text “UUCW” to 73256 - OR – go to uucw.org and click “Donate”

MAIL: Mail a Contribution to UU Church West – 13001 W North Ave, Brookfield, WI 53005

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WELCOME TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH WEST

- **Welcome** – to a place to grow in mind, heart and spirit—a place to find companionship on your quest for truth.
 - **Welcome** – to a congregation where there is a place for you—in worship, in small groups, in fun activities, in teams that act for justice, and in religious education classes for children, youth, and adults.
 - **Welcome** – to this **Green Sanctuary church**—where we teach sustainability and live gently upon the sacred earth, to this **Welcoming Congregation**—where we celebrate the lives and equal rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning people, to this congregation which affirms and works to support **Black Lives Matter** and is a **Peace Advocacy Congregation**.
 - **Welcome** – to a centuries-old yet ever-new faith that draws from sources as diverse as the world’s religions, humanist philosophy, the teachings of science, the ancient practices of earth-centered religions—a faith historically rooted in liberal Christianity that has branched out widely into the mystery and wonder and knowledge of the world.
 - **Welcome** – to a free, inclusive and reasoned faith—we’re glad you’re here.
- Learn more about UU Church West** – When you fill out a yellow Welcome Form, we will send you our weekly electronic newsletter. Or visit our website: www.uucw.org or email us at visitor@uucw.org
- For your comfort during the service:**
- If a young child with you becomes squirmy, no worries! We welcome their movement and voices! If you’d like, there is childcare available – simply ask an usher for assistance. Or feel free to make use of the activity table near the front of the sanctuary.
 - Chair cushions are available from the ushers.
 - Restrooms, including an all-inclusive family restroom, are located off the foyer.
 - Please put your phone in Worship Mode (ringer and alerts off)
- If you'd like to share a Joy or Concern**, you may fill out a yellow Sharing Card at the table on the North Ave side of the Sanctuary. Or go to <https://bit.ly/Joys-Concerns> and choose whether you'd like them shared in our weekly e-news or shared privately with Rev. Julie.