

The Bridge To Spring

30 January 2022

Rev. Steven Protzman

Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent



The Bridge to Spring

Order of Service

January 30, 2022

Down with the rosemary, and so- down with the bays and misletoe;
Down with the holly, ivy, all- wherewith ye dress'd the Christmas Hall:
That so the superstitious find- no one least branch there left behind:
For look, how many leaves there be- neglected, there (maids, trust to me)
So many goblins you shall see.

—Robert Herrick

Gathering

Music for Gathering

Welcome Rev. Steven Protzman, Minister

Chime

Prelude *King of the Fairies*, traditional
performed by Eddie, Laurie and Roscoe Caner

Prologue *Maya Discovers the Bridge To Spring*
Colleen Thoele, Director of Religious Education
featuring Meredith Wakefield as Maya
and Brad Bolton as the Groundhog

Chalice Lighting

As this flame grows, so will the days.
As this fire leaps into life, may we remember that life is stirring.
Light is the bridge from winter to spring.
May this light burn brightly to warm our spirits in community.

Opening Hymn #347 *Gather the Spirit*

The Bridge to Spring

Part I: *Imbolc- A Lamb in Winter*

Winter Hymn #55 *Dark of Winter*

Holding One Another in Care and Compassion

A time of stillness, sharing our sorrows and losses, pastoral prayer,
and sharing our joys, wonder and awe

Music Meditation *Lament for Limerick*, traditional
performed by Eddie Caner, Fiddle

Part II: *Brigid- Goddess and Saint*

Music Interlude *Brigid*
lyrics and melody by Damh the Bard
Sung by Katie Grigg Miller

Part III: *Conversations with a Groundhog* Heidi Emhoff Wood
Worship Associate

Imbolc Hymn #1068 *Rising Green*

Part IV: *Candlemas- Sharing the Light*

Hymn #118 *This Little Light of Mine*

Responsive Reading (insert) *Spring Will Come*
by Patricia Montley

Offering *Ashokan Farewell*, by J. Unger
Pipe on the Hob and *Sonny Brogan's*, traditional
performed by Eddie, Laurie and Roscoe Caner

Returning

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of
community, or the fire of commitment. May we carry these in our hearts
and minds until we are together again.

Closing Hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth*, adapted

Benediction

Song of Blessing and Sending *Go On Your Way in Peace*
by Hal Walker
Golden Tones Junior Choir

Virtual Coffee Hour



Next Sunday: Making Meaning of the Pandemic
Led by Rev. Christie Anderson and Worship Associate Randy Bish

VISITORS - Welcome! We are glad you are here. Thank you for participating in worship with us today. We hope that you will find a spiritual home here and that you will be enriched in the liberal religious practice and heritage of Unitarian Universalism. This congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The members of this church take pride in the fact that we embrace people of all races, ethnicities, ages, creeds, sexual orientations, and abilities. In addition, we are a "Welcoming Congregation," which means that we have taken part in a special program, designed by the UUA, for congregations that see a need to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people. The principles and purposes of the UUA, which we "covenant to affirm and promote," can be found in the front of the hymnal, on the UUA website (www.uua.org), and on bookmarks available in the front entryway.

We are concerned for everyone's safety. If we need to evacuate the building for a fire, a drill or for any other reason, please follow the directions of the worship leader. Parents and guardians should look for their children on the grassy area behind the Annex and should not go to the classrooms. People with mobility concerns or other special needs should proceed to the entryway where evacuation assistance will be available.

OUR SUNDAY SERVICE is offered at 10 AM via Zoom. Visit kentuu.org for information to join the service.

Church Office: The church office is located in the Eldredge Annex (yellow house) next to the church building.

Office hours are: Monday -Friday 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Church Address: Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent
228 Gougler Avenue, Kent, OH 44240.

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On the web – <https://kentuu.org>

Facebook - www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent

Visit our website.



CHURCH STAFF

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Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

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Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

Kathy Kerns

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Gather the Spirit

Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our sep'rate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

Refrain:

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.

Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more.

Refrain

Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one.

Refrain

Dark of Winter

Dark of winter, soft and still,
your quiet calm surrounds me.
Let my thoughts go where they will,
ease my mind profoundly.
And then my soul will sing a song
a blessed song of love eternal.
Gentle darkness, soft and still,
bring your quiet to me.

Darkness, soothe my weary eyes,
that I may see more clearly.
When my heart with sorrow cries,
comfort and caress me.
And then my soul may hear a voice,
a still, small voice of love eternal.
Darkness, when my fears arise,
let your peace flow through me.

Rising Green

My blood doth rise in the roots of yon oak,
her sap doth run in my veins.

Boundless my soul like the open sky
where the stars forever have lain.

Where the stars, where the stars,
where the stars forever have lain.

My hands hold the weavings of time without end,
my sight as deep as the sea.

Beating, my heart sounds like the measures of old,
that of love's eternity.

That of love, that of love,
that of love's eternity.

I feel the tides as they answer the moon,
rushing on a far distant sand.

Winging my song is the wind of my breast
and my love blows over the land.

And my love, and my love,
and my love blows over the land.

My foot carries days of old into new,
our dreaming shows us the way.

Wondrous our faith settles deep in the earth,
rising green to bring a new day.

Rising green, rising green,
rising green to bring a new day.

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Building up a world, I'm gonna let it shine.

Building up a world, I'm gonna let it shine.

Building up a world, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Spring Will Come

by Patricia Montley, adapted
Responsive Reading

Leader: For those of us who live in cold or even temperate climates,
February is a time of faith- faith in the power of life, In the cycles of
nature. Although the sun reverses its course at winter solstice,
There are still more hours of darkness than light each day. Yet we
have faith that the light will wax stronger. Because, after all, it
always has.

*All: We have faith that spring will come.
Because, after all, it always has.*

Leader: The deciduous trees are a dreary expanse of brown against
The gray sky, their sap asleep in frozen roots.
Yet we have faith in the greening to come.
The ground is cold- in some places still patched with snow.
Yet beneath it, silent seeds are germinating, poised for awakening.

*All: We have faith that spring will come.
Because, after all, it always has.*

Leader: Sometimes it is February in our hearts,
Times of dreary, colorless sameness
when we are bored with our lives,
Or times when the darkness and cold of loneliness
or stress or failure seem unending,
And we doubt we can endure it much longer.

Or times when we are frozen in our losses,
When we despair of ever loving again,
Of ever being truly joyful,
Or of finding meaning in our lives.

*All: We must have faith that spring will come.
Because, after all, it always has.*

Leader: The wheel of the year turns.
Seasons change.
Darkness gives way to light,
Which wanes into darkness.

Birth and death and birth and death and birth
Each has its season,
and each season is a necessary part of the whole.
It is the way of all nature.
Let us embrace it with faith.

*All: We must have faith that spring will come.
Because, after all, it always has.*

For the Beauty of the Earth (adapted)

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the earth, air, water, and fire, blessed elements of old,
for the gifts of love and hope, for the caring deeds untold:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human care, sister, brother, parent, child,
for the kinship we all share, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.