

# We Bless This Space

3 December 2023  
Rev. Steven Protzman  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent



# ***We Bless This Space***

Order of Service

December 3, 2023

Let memories add warmth...  
a heritage, a quilted patchwork stitched with history  
Of kindness, of daring for the good,  
of funny moments, jokes and smiles and tears.  
This is a precious place, as every home, that shelters those who love and  
strive and share. Its blessing is in lives that meet within...  
In living, learning, caring, sheltered here.

—Dori J. Somers

## **Gathering**

Music for Gathering

Welcome

Rev. Steven Protzman, Minister

Chime

Prelude

*A Place for you*, by Melanie DeMore  
led by Saunis Parsons, Diane Cardew, and Emily Hall

Chalice Lighting

responsive reading adapted from Sandra Fees  
Randy Bish, Worship Associate

*All: We light this chalice.*

Opening Hymn

*#1000 Morning Has Come*  
Lo Thoele, Hymn Leader

Time for All Ages

Our Youth and  
Colleen Thoele, Director of Religious Education

Singing our Children, Caregivers, and Teachers to Their Classes

*Please Bless This Space* (insert)  
by Celia Farran

## **Reflecting**

Holding One Another in Care and Compassion

*A time of sharing our sorrows and losses, pastoral prayer,  
sharing our joys, wonder and awe, and a silent meditation.*

Music Meditation

*The Oneness of Everything*, by Jim Scott  
instrumental version by Christie Anderson and Brad Bolton

A Tribute to Jack Graham

Mary Ann Stephens

Hymn of Blessing

*#1 May Nothing Evil Cross This Door*

Diane Cardew, Hymn Leader

with Kent UU Tone Chime Ensemble and Vanessa Vesely, piano

Sharing Memories and Stories

An opportunity for you to share your stories and memories  
about this sacred space.

### **The Ritual of Rededication**

Responsive Reading

*Blessing this Space*

adapted from Sandra Fees

*All: We bless this sanctuary as a place of love and peace.*

Blessing Song (insert)

*Please Bless This Space*

by Celia Farran

### **Returning**

Offering

*We Come Together*, by Abby McGillivray

Vanessa Vesely, piano

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 (insert)

*Life Calls Us On*

words by Rev. Kendyl Gibbons: music by Rev. Jason Shelton

Saunis Parsons and Diane Cardew, Hymn Leaders

Benediction

*The flowers are given by Mary Ann Stephens  
in loving memory of Jack Graham.*

*Cover art: photos by Brad Bolton.*



*Sunday, December 10, 2023*

*Live in the Mystery*

*Led by Rev. Steven Protzman and Worship Associate Heidi Sumser*

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**Activities & Events: Dec. 3 - 10, 2023**<https://kentuu.org/calendar>[kentuu.org/news/announcements-events](https://kentuu.org/news/announcements-events)

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**Dec. 3 Sunday**

10:00 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Social Hour  
11:15 AM Shared Ministries Council  
11:30 PM Pageant Rehearsal  
4:45 PM Community Meal

**Dec. 4 Monday**

Church Office Closed  
6:30 PM Fessenden Hall Reserved

**Dec. 5 Tuesday**

12:00 PM Retiree's Gathering  
1:00 PM Staff Meeting  
6:00 PM Rental: Fessenden Reserved  
6:00 PM Tone Chimes Rehearsal

**Dec. 6 Wednesday**

4:30 PM Knitting, Crochet, Needle Point  
4:30 PM Board Audit Team  
5:30 PM Youth Music Group  
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

**Dec. 7 Thursday**

9:00 AM Membership Team  
6:30 PM Ministry Executive Team  
7:00 PM Sacred Song Circle

**Dec. 8 Friday****Dec. 9 Saturday**

8:00 AM Rental-Hobbs Hall Reserved

**Dec. 10 Sunday**

10:00 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Social Hour  
11:30 PM Pageant Rehearsal

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

Office – 330.673.4247

Email – [churchoffice@kentuu.org](mailto:churchoffice@kentuu.org)

On the web – <https://kentuu.org>

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent](https://www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent)

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

Visit our website.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Minister  
Congregational Administrator  
Dir. of Religious Education  
Transitional Music Director  
Accompanist  
Campus Use Manager  
Nursery Staff  
Sexton  
Tech Manager  
Affiliated Community Minister  
Affiliated Community Minister  
Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)  
Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

Rev. Steven Protzman  
MaryBeth Hannan  
Colleen Thoele  
Emily Hall  
Vanessa Vesely  
Katie Kuras  
Michelle Bores  
Brian Mulloy  
Julie Swango  
Rev. Renee Ruchotzke  
Rev. Christie Anderson  
Lori Mirkin-McGee  
Kathy Kerns

[revsteven@kentuu.org](mailto:revsteven@kentuu.org)  
[churchoffice@kentuu.org](mailto:churchoffice@kentuu.org)  
[colleen@kentuu.org](mailto:colleen@kentuu.org)  
[emily@kentuu.org](mailto:emily@kentuu.org)

[rentals@kentuu.org](mailto:rentals@kentuu.org)

[sexton@kentuu.org](mailto:sexton@kentuu.org)  
[tech@kentuu.org](mailto:tech@kentuu.org)  
[rruchotzke@uua.org](mailto:rruchotzke@uua.org)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022 – 2023**

Board Moderator  
Board Asst. Moderator  
Board Co-Secretary  
Board Co-Secretary  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

Kara Kramer  
Ginny Horvath  
Susanna Smart  
Carol Weigand  
Heidi Shaffer Bish  
Kay Eckman  
David Weaver

[board@kentuu.org](mailto:board@kentuu.org)

## **#1000 Morning Has Come**

Morning has come, arise and greet the day!  
Dance with joy and sing a song of gladness!  
The light of hope here shines upon each face.  
May it bring faith to guide our journey home.

A new day dawns, once more the gift is giv'n.  
Wonder fills this moment shared together.  
The light of love here shines upon each face.  
May it bring faith to guide our journey home.

Open our eyes to see that life abounds;  
open hearts to welcome it among us.  
The light of peace here shines upon each face.  
May it bring faith to guide our journey home.

## ***Please Bless This Space***

words and music by Celia Farran

Please bless this space, this sanctuary.  
All around, below, above.  
Please bring us peace, and protection.  
May all who enter be nourished with love.  
Alleluia, Amen. Aho, Blessed be, allow it in.  
Alleluia, Amen. Aho, Blessed be, So it is.

## **#1 May Nothing Evil Cross This Door**

May nothing evil cross this door,  
and may ill fortune never pry  
about these windows; may the roar  
and rain go by.

By faith made strong, the rafters will  
withstand the battering of the storm.  
This hearth, though all the world grow chill,  
will keep you warm.

Peace shall walk softly through these rooms,  
touching our lips with holy wine,  
till ev'ry casual corner blooms  
into a shrine.

With laughter drown the raucous shout,  
and, though these sheltering walls are thin,  
may they be strong to keep hate out  
and hold love in.

## ***Life Calls Us On***

words by Rev. Kendyl Gibbons; music by Rev. Jason Shelton

Here in rev'rence now we gather  
For the blessings we have known,  
With a pledge to one another  
That we journey not alone.  
Joy and sorrow make us wise,  
Kin to all that lives and dies;  
Love calls us on, Love calls us on.

Words and deeds of those before us  
Waken here to keep us strong;  
Blend our voices in the chorus  
Of creation's living song.  
Courage bids us lift our eyes  
Upward to the shining skies;  
Hope calls us on; Hope calls us on.

Loyal guides in love and duty  
Lead us with a trusted light;  
Blest are they whose inward beauty  
Shows the path of truth and right.  
Honor is their earthly prize;  
By their work we realize;  
Faith calls us on; Faith calls us on.

We have shared a radiant hour  
When the truth has made us free;  
And the spirit's gracious power  
Dreamed of good that yet shall be.  
Bright the path before us lies  
Joyful pilgrims now we rise;  
Life calls us on; Life calls us on!