



A Celebration of Life  
for  
The Reverend Steven A. Protzman

August 18, 1958 – January 29, 2024

Celebration of Life  
**The Reverend Steven A. Protzman**

Order of Service  
Saturday, June 1, 2024  
1:00 pm



Prelude Vanessa Vesely, piano

**Gathering**

Words of Gathering Lori Mirkin-McGee  
Commissioned Lay Minister

Chalice Lighting #454 In our time of grief, we light a flame  
by Christine Robinson

In our time of grief, we light a flame of sharing, the flame of ongoing life.  
In this time when we search for understanding and serenity in the face of  
loss, we light this sign of our quest for truth, meaning, and community.

Opening Hymn *Spirit Make Us One*  
words by Kendyl Gibbons; music by Jason Shelton  
Diane Cardew, hymn leader

Reflections Raylynn Rome  
Evi Rome

Time for All Ages *The Memory Tree*  
by Britta Teckentrup  
Colleen Thoele, Director of Religious Education

**Remembering**

The Candle of Memory

Reflection Lori Mirkin-McGee

Responsive Reading (insert) #720 *We Remember Him*

Music Interlude *What Wondrous Love is This*  
*American folk hymn*  
Kent UU Tone Chimers

Remembering Steven

Kevin Protzman

Music

*The River*  
by Coco Love Alcorn  
Kent UU Peace Chorus

Reflections

Mike Cardew  
Jamie Vessely  
Elaine Bowen

Time of Silence and Introspection

Music Interlude

*Mystery* (from *Missa Gaia*)  
by Paul Winter  
Vanessa Vesely, piano;  
Emily Hall, Transitional Music Director

Commendation

### **Returning**

Closing Hymn

*Ours is a Simple Faith*  
by David Tamulevich

Closing Words

*In Blackwater Woods*  
by Mary Oliver

Song for Sending

*Life Calls Us On*  
words by Kendyl Gibbons; music by Jason Shelton

Benediction

*Hands Touching Hands*  
by Matt Alspaugh

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*All are invited to greet Steven's family at the reception  
immediately following the service.*

## ***In Blackwater Woods***

by Mary Oliver

Look, the trees are turning their own bodies into pillars of light,  
are giving off the rich fragrance of cinnamon and fulfillment,  
the long tapers of cattails are bursting and floating away  
over the blue shoulders of the ponds,  
and every pond, no matter what its name is,  
is nameless now.

Every year everything I have ever learned  
in my lifetime leads back to this:  
The fires and the black river of loss  
whose other side is salvation,  
whose meaning none of us will ever know.

To live in this world  
you must be able to do three things:  
to love what is mortal;  
to hold it against your bones  
knowing your own life depends on it;  
and, when the time comes to let go,  
to let it go.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent  
228 Gougler Avenue, Kent OH 44240  
<https://kentuu.org>

## Responsive Reading

*Please respond with the words in italics*

### **#720 We Remember Them**

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,  
*we remember him.*

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,  
*we remember him.*

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,  
*we remember him.*

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,  
*we remember him.*

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,  
*we remember him.*

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,  
*we remember him.*

When we are weary and in need of strength,  
*we remember him.*

When we are lost and sick at heart,  
*we remember him.*

When we have joys we yearn to share,  
*we remember him.*

## **Spirit Make Us One**

words by Kendyl Gibbons; music by Jason Shelton

We proclaim a saving message, as in times of old;  
Hist'ry, give us courage; make us bold.  
There is healing, there is hope for ev'ry hurting soul;  
Spirit, give us comfort; make us whole.  
Make us bold, make us bold  
Hist'ry, give us courage; make us bold.  
Make us whole, make us whole  
Spirit, give us comfort; make us whole.

Earth, receive our heart's thanksgiving, under prairie skies;  
Nature, bless our yearning; make us wise.  
We are here for one another, in good times and bad;  
Spirit, give us laughter; make us glad.  
Make us wise, make us wise  
Nature, bless our yearning; make us wise.  
Make us glad, make us glad  
Spirit, give us laughter, make us glad.

Still let justice be the saving struggle we pursue;  
Conscience, give us honor; make us true.  
We bear witness to the promised future now begun;  
Spirit, bless our journey; make us one.  
Make us true, make us true  
Conscience, give us honor; make us true.  
Make us one, make us one  
Spirit, bless our journey; make us one.

***Ours is a Simple Faith***

by David Tamulevich

Ours is a simple faith  
Life is a short embrace  
Heaven is in this place  
Ev'ry day

Hope is the ground we till  
Make each day what you will  
Thankful for dreams fulfilled  
Ev'ry day

There is no hell to fear  
No judgement day drawing near  
Turst that inner voice you hear  
Ev'ry day

Life's not a goal or race  
Its about heart and faith  
And living a life of grace  
Ev'ry day

Trust is an open hand  
Making an honest stand  
Rooted here in this land  
Ev'ry day

Living the mystery  
Seeking the harmony  
Here between you and me  
Ev'ry day

Ours is a simple faith  
Life is a short embrace  
Heaven is in this place  
Ev'ry day

Hope is the ground we till  
Make each day what you will  
Thankful for dreams fulfilled  
Ev'ry day

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

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

Here in rev'ence 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!