

Chimes

Prelude Michael Frye-Hunt, Worship Musician (He, Him)

Invocation & Opening Words

Rev. Rachel Baker, Interim Minister (She, Her)

By Rainer Maria Rilke,

Translated by Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy

***Opening Hymn** #55, Dark of Winter

***Chalice Lighting**

***Covenant**

We light this chalice as a reminder
that Love is the doctrine of this church,
the quest for truth is its sacrament, and service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom,
to serve the interdependent web,
to the end that all souls shall grow in harmony,
thus do we covenant, with each other and with _____.

***Speak what is true for you. Some might say "Spirit of Life," "God,"
"The Universe," or "The Interdependent Web of Life."*

***Doxology**

From all that dwell below the skies
let songs of hope and faith arise.
Let peace, goodwill on Earth be sung
through every land by every tongue.

Welcome Zanna McKay, Worship Associate (She, Her)

Lighting the Advent Candles

Time for All Ages

"The Raven Stole the Sun"

Musical Interlude Michael Frye-Hunt

Children may go downstairs to spend time with the childcare providers.

Centering & Grounding Rev. Rachel Baker

Joys & Sorrows The Gathered Congregation

Prayer, Meditation, & Silence Rev. Rachel Baker

Pastoral Hymn #1048, Ubi Caritas

Report from the Ministerial Search Committee

Sharing Our Blessings & Invitations Zanna McKay

Give Online: <http://uuso.org/donate/>

Give by App: Download Vanco Mobile;

direct donations to UU Society of Oneonta

The Share Our Plate contributions for December
will be shared with Saturday's Bread,
feeding the hungry, and providing a setting in which people can
meet across the differences which often divide us.

Offertory Michael Frye-Hunt

Reading Zanna McKay

"The Darker the Dirt, the Richer the Soil,"

By Sarah Bourns Crosby, adapted

Hymn #1006, In My Quiet Sorrow

Sermon Rev. Rachel Baker

"The Deep Dark of the Soil"

***Closing Hymn** #391, Voice Still and Small

***Closing Words** Rev. Rachel Baker

By Sarah Bourns Crosby, excerpt

***Chalice Extinguishing**

We release that which was called with love and gratitude,
and we extinguish the chalice,
but not the quest for truth,
commitment to the Beloved Community,
or service to the interdependent web.

These we carry in our hearts and actions until we gather again.

Postlude Michael Frye-Hunt

**Please rise in body and/or spirit*

Welcome!

Visitors are warmly welcomed! To receive the weekly UUSO newsletter and a personal welcome from our Minister, please fill out a Visitor Connections Form at the Welcome Table at the back of the Sanctuary, or on the website under the "Visitors" tab.

The Mission of UUSO

UUSO: A welcoming community, nurturing spirit and working for a just and sustainable world

The Vision of UUSO

The UUSO provides a visible, positive place for the greater community to gather in love and acceptance. Without dogma or doctrine, the congregation welcomes all to challenge, question, and explore as all grow in spirit. Because beloved community is inclusive, we champion those who have been historically excluded, and we fulfill our responsibility to the interdependent web of life. The Vision is created by enacting the Mission.

Relational Covenant and Aspiration

To build and sustain diverse and committed relationships within the congregation, we covenant and aspire to get involved and stay engaged; be honest and kind; be respectful and open-minded; and grow and learn together.

Earphones and Hearing Loop are available for those who use hearing aids or have difficulty hearing.

Please see the usher(s) for assistance.



Rev. Rachel Baker, Interim Minister

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Religious Exploration

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Tim Horne, Music & Choir Director

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Office Administration

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

12 Ford Avenue, Oneonta NY 13820

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Religious Exploration

Welcome to our Religious Exploration program!

The congregation is trying out a new way to offer Religious Exploration (RE) and Family Ministries. This year we are holding monthly “Second Saturday Celebrations” from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Chapin on the second Saturday of each month. These celebrations are primarily for families, but all are invited. Together we will share a short children’s worship service and religious exploration, followed by games and a light lunch.

All children and teens are welcome to attend worship services every Sunday and may sit together with a member of the RE Team or with their parents or guardians. Chalice activity bags are available at the Visitor Welcome Table in the back of the Sanctuary.

Most worship services include a Time for All Ages, which is either a story or an activity. If children do not wish to stay through the worship service, they may go downstairs after the Time for All Ages to play games or do crafts with the childcare providers in the multi-age classroom.

Childcare for babies and young children is available downstairs from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Sundays.

UUSO thanks the following people for today’s service and additional Sunday support:

Worship Associate: Zanna McKay (She, Her)

RE Point Person: Zanna McKay (She, Her)

AV Operator: Caitlin Wiltsey (She, Her)

Zoom Assistant: Ginny Scheer (She, Her)

Usher: Tracy Verma (She, Her)

Welcome Table: Karen Palmer (She, Her)

Chancel Table: Rosalind Thomas (She, Her)

Podcast: Scott Segar (He, Him)

Invitations

TCF Oneonta Region Chapter will host a candle lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 11, to remember our departed children at UUSO, the surrounding areas, and beyond. Attendees may wish to bring a small photo of their loved one. Candles are provided. Refreshments will be served. A Zoom option is also available. For more information, go to www.tcfoneonta.org or call Chapter Leader Al Davino, 607-746-7396.

Muffins for Mali returns on Sunday, December 18. Delicious muffins will be available after the service in the Sanctuary. See the Newsletter for ordering details. The Mali Market will also be open for your holiday gifting.

Coming Up at UUSO

Sunday, December 11, 2022

10:30 a.m. — Worship Service; *Chapin & Zoom*

12:00 p.m. — Muffins for Mali; *Chapin*

6:30 p.m. — Compassionate Friends World Candle Lighting; *Chapin*

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

6:30 p.m. — Social Action Team; *Zoom*

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Deadline for Newsletter and Order of Service submissions

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. — Finance Committee; *Zoom*

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. — Green Sanctuary Meeting; *Zoom*

Friday, December 16, 2022

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. — Beyond Categorical Thinking; *Zoom*

Saturday, December 17, 2022

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. — Beyond Categorical Thinking; *Zoom*

Sunday, December 18, 2022

10:30 a.m. — Worship Service; *Chapin & Zoom*

“Winter Solstice,” led by Rosemary Summers and Zanna McKay

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF  NEONTA
A welcoming community, nurturing spirit and working for a just and sustainable world



The Deep Dark of the Soil

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Led by Rev. Rachel Baker, Interim Minister

In person and online. See UUSO.ORG for Zoom link.

Masks are optional

As an inclusive and Welcoming Congregation, UUSO invites everyone into our faith community, as members and leaders, without regard to religious practice or belief, sexual or affectional orientation, gender identity and expression, age, race, national origin, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, marital status, size, disability, neurodivergence, or physical and mental health.