

First Parish in Concord
Summer 2023

Order of Service for Sunday, August 6, 2023

Guest Musicians: Lauren Evans, Vocalist & Rob Humpreville, Keyboard

GATHERING

Musical Prelude . . . Rob Humpreville

Welcome & Announcements . . . Rev. Dr. Althea Smith

Call to Worship . . . Rev. Dr. Althea Smith

“Yesterday, our distant ancestors gathered ‘round a flame to share their stories and find comfort.

Tomorrow, our descendants will gather ‘round a flame, speaking of a life we will never know.

Today, it is we who gather here, ‘round the flame of this chalice; seeking, believing, and being, together.” [1]

Chalice Lighting . . . Rev. Dr. Althea Smith

Response (unison)

O flame of our faith, open our hearts

And fill our bodies and souls with persistent strength;

Enliven our spirits and engage us deeply in this life of ours,

This sacred essential moment now. — Paul Sawyer

Opening Hymn: #25 “God of the Earth, the Sky, the Sea”

DEEPENING

Wisdom Story . . . Rev. Caro Barschow

Musical Offering I . . . Lauren Evans

Reading: “They Are With Us Still” by Kathleen McTigue
. . . Rev. Dr. Althea Smith

Sermon [2] . . . Rev. Caro Barschow

Musical Offering II . . . Lauren Evans

Parish Concerns, Calling of Names & Prayer . . . Rev. Dr. Althea Smith

Silence

Spirit of Life (see side panel)

GOING FORTH

Offertory . . . Rob Humpreville

Closing Hymn: #110 “Come, Children of Tomorrow”

Closing Words . . . Rev. Dr. Althea Smith

Benediction (see side panel) . . . Rev. Caro Barschow

Postlude . . . Rob Humpreville

[1] Adapted from UUA Worship Web

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/yesterday-tomorrow-today>

[2] Excerpts from William Ellery Channing's sermon "Unitarian Christianity"
(preached in Baltimore, Maryland on May 5, 1819)

"Our leading principle in interpreting Scripture is this, that the Bible is a book written for men, in the language of men, and that its meaning is to be sought in the same manner as that of other books....We profess not to know a book which demands a more frequent exercise of reason than the Bible."

"We believe in the doctrine of God's UNITY, of that there is one God, and one only....To us, as to the Apostles and the primitive Christians, there is one God, even the Father. We, like Jesus, we worship the Father, as the only living and true God."

The doctrine of the trinity "is unfavorable to devotion, by dividing and distracting the mind in its communion with God....the excellence of the doctrine of god's unity is that it offers to us ONE OBJECT of supreme homage, adoration, and love..."

"We venerate not the loftiness of God's throne, but the equity and goodness in which it is established....We believe that God is infinitely good, kind, benevolent...good to every individual, as well as to the general system."

Full text of sermon available here: <https://uuwestport.org/unitarianchristianity/>