

"Counting Our Blessings," by Rev. Matt Aspin.

Order of Service

August 14, 2022

Prelude: "Gavotte in C Minor" by J.S. Bach, performed by Luna.

Welcome and Announcements: Barbara Chatterton

Chalice Lighting: "Faith in Summer" by Ellen Hamilton.

In faith, together, we light this small scrap of light,
symbol of Grandfather Sun's enormous power,
whose energy burns so brightly In these days of deep
Summer,
catapulting the leaves and vines,
vegetables, flowers and fruits to astonishing size, lengths
and heights,
spilling over the tops of cages, walls and trellises,
delighting and nourishing all beings.

We bask in the warmth and the heat of these days,
with lightened hearts and quickened senses,
in gratitude and in faith.

Opening Music: #331 SLT Life Is the Greatest Gift of All.
Mary Frantz, accompanist.

Story for All Ages: Thankful by Eileen Spinelli.

Children's Recessional: by Joyce Poley.

As you go on your way, may you be filled with gladness.
Go in joy, go in joy!
May fortune bless your day with peace and loving
kindness.
Go in love, go in love.

Silent Meditation

Reading: "Choose to Bless the World" by Rebecca Parker.

Your gifts—whatever you discover them to be—
can be used to bless or curse the world.
The mind's power,
the strength of the hands,
the reaches of the heart,
the gift of speaking, listening, imagining, seeing, waiting
Any of these can serve to feed the hungry,
bind up wounds,
welcome the stranger,
praise what is sacred,
do the work of justice
or offer love.

Any of these can draw down the prison door,
hoard bread,
abandon the poor,
obscure what is holy,
comply with injustice
or withhold love.
You must answer this question:
What will you do with your gifts?
Choose to bless the world.
The choice to bless the world is more than an act of will,
a moving forward into the world
with the intention to do good.
It is an act of recognition,
a confession of surprise,
a grateful acknowledgment
that in the midst of a broken world
unspeakable beauty, grace and mystery abide.
There is an embrace of kindness
that encompasses all life, even yours.
And while there is injustice, anesthetization, or evil
there moves a holy disturbance,
a benevolent rage,
a revolutionary love,
protesting, urging, insisting
that which is sacred will not be defiled.
Those who bless the world live their life
as a gesture of thanks
for this beauty
and this rage.
The choice to bless the world can take you into solitude
to search for the sources
of power and grace;
native wisdom, healing, and liberation.
More, the choice will draw you into community,
the endeavor shared,
the heritage passed on,
the companionship of struggle,
the importance of keeping faith,
the life of ritual and praise,
the comfort of human friendship,
the company of earth
the chorus of life welcoming you.
None of us alone can save the world.
Together—that is another possibility, waiting.

Presentation: "Counting Our Blessings," by Rev. Matt Aspin.

Discussion

Offering and Offertory: "La Cinquantaine" by G. Marie, performed by Luna.

Closing Words: "In the Leaving" by Jan Richardson.

In the leaving, in the letting go, let there be this to hold onto at the last: the enduring of love, the persisting of hope, the remembering of joy, the offering of gratitude, the receiving of grace, the blessing of peace.

Closing Music: #355 SLT We Lift Our Hearts in Thanks

Joys/Concerns & Welcoming Guests/Visitors

Greet Your Neighbor

Announcements

For the third quarter of 2022, Prairie will share its offertory collection with Wilma's Fund, which provides assessments and assistance to LGBTQ+ people who are experiencing homelessness, as well as support to prevent homelessness in this population. The fund was established in 2011.

Please save the date for Sunday, September 25th for our Building Dedication service followed by a Festive Fall Fair welcoming Prairie folks and the community with open house tours, fun activities, food, and raffle.

Al Nettleton will speak for next Sunday's service.

Prairie UU Society Bond of Union

We, the members of Prairie, wish to associate ourselves together in a religious community which affirms that we share a common humanity, that we need one another, and that our futures are inescapably bound together. Together we would expand our intellectual horizons, enrich our sensory experiences, and deepen our emotional sensitivities. We would sharpen our ethical awareness and broaden our sense of social responsibility. We would stand tall in our quest for integrity of life, yet not at others' expense. As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world, and with one another.

Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Prairie Board Officers and Staff

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