

SERVICE OF THE LIVING TRADITION

Friday, June 26, 2009

Pre-Service Ingathering beginning at 8:15

[Ken Ewan speaking]

Good Evening.

As we gather together for our service this evening, let's welcome each other with song. We'll begin with "Sing and Rejoice". We'll sing the song together in unison three times and then break into 4 parts and sing in a round 5 times. I'll bring each section of the room in. When you come to the end of singing the 5th time, please repeat the last phrase "Sing and Rejoice" until we are all singing together once again.

"Sing and Rejoice" is sung - Traditional Round

Sing and rejoice. Sing and rejoice.

May all things living now sing and rejoice.

Let's now all sing "Meditation on Breathing". There are three parts to this song. I will sing each part once and I'd like you to sing it back to me twice.

(words appear on screen):

Drone: "Breathe in, breathe out. Breathe in, breathe out."

Middle: "When I breathe in, I breathe in peace. When I breathe out, I breathe out love."

Top: "When I breathe in, I breathe in peace. When I breathe out, I breathe out love."

That was terrific. Now let's sing that much loved African American Spiritual of the slavery period, "Come and Go With Me"

(lyrics appear on screen)

Prelude

Natasha Steinmacher

Welcome

[The Reverend Beth Miller speaking]

Good evening. I'm Beth Miller, Director of Ministry and Professional Leadership at the Unitarian Universalist Association. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this year's Service of the Living Tradition. This evening, we will remember those who have died in the past year. We will thank those who are retiring from active service and congratulate those receiving credentials. We will recognize credentialed music directors for the first time this year. We will hear fine preaching and excellent music. We will sing and speak and offer our gifts.

Those coming before us tonight have accepted a powerful call to the work of religious leadership. The newly credentialed bring the gifts of their minds and hearts and souls and place them on the altar of our collective faith in our presence this evening. We are, indeed, proud of them and invest a sizeable portion of our high hopes for the future of our movement in them. As

we remember the deceased and thank the retiring, we are mindful of the many ways in which their lives have shaped the past and present of our movement. Together, these people represent the Living Tradition that this service honors.

As proud as we are of them, I ask you not to applaud or cheer for individuals tonight. This is the third year I've made this request of the congregation. With very few exceptions, those gathered have been extremely gracious in honoring that request. I've heard from many people that it feels so much better not to have the awkwardness of a few people on the stage being wildly cheered while others are not acknowledged with any applause at all. I've heard from even more folks that the service feels so much more like worship and less like a graduation ceremony without the random applause. And, on a practical note, the service is timed to the minute this evening and if we go past 10:00 p.m., we have to pay a large overtime penalty. So, please, I ask you again, refrain from applause or cheering as individual names are called.

That said, we will take a few moments to express our appreciation for the people being recognized tonight early in the service. As soon as they've all assembled up here on the stage and we've finished singing "Rank By Rank," I will invite you to give them all an enormous round of applause, complete with whistling and cheering and the stomping of feet. Applaud them as wildly as you wish. Be extremely boisterous in showing them the LOVE. And then, we will settle into our time of worship.

Now, let us rise in body or in spirit and join in the processional Hymn, "Rank by Rank."

Processional

[congregation singing; lyrics on screen]

Lyrics:

Rank by rank again we stand, from the four winds gathered hither,
Loud the hallowed walls demand whence we come and how, and whither.
From their stillness breaking clear, echoes wake to warn or cheer;
higher truth from saint and seer call to us assembled here.

Ours the years' memorial store, honored days and names we reckon,
days of comrades gone before, lives that speak and deeds that beckon.
From the dreaming of the night to the labors of the day,
shines their everlasting light, guiding us upon our way.

Though the path be hard and long, still we strive in expectation;
join we now their ageless song one with them in aspiration.
One in name, in honor one, guard we well the crown they won;
what they dreamed be our to do, hope their hopes, and seal them true.

Chalice Lighting

[The Reverend Beth Miller speaking]

As we kindle the flame of the chalice in celebration of the Living Tradition this evening, we do so to honor both the fullness of the past which grounds us and the vibrancy of the future which beckons us.

Considering our vibrant future, we recognize for the first time this evening seven musicians awarded the new Unitarian Universalist Musicians Credential. These credentialed musicians take their place this evening alongside the ministers receiving final fellowship and the religious educators credentialed at the master level. The Musicians Network and the UUA have been working together toward this for several years as part of a shared vision with President Sinkford, and we are delighted that it has come to fruition in time for his last Service of the Living Tradition as our President. On behalf of the musicians, thank you Bill, for making this possible.

And considering our rich past, we celebrate the Service of the Living Tradition at a General Assembly for the sixtieth time tonight. I am indebted to Richard Speck, District Executive for the Joseph Priestley District, who has been researching a book on Vincent Silliman and sent me this information.

In 1949 Director of Ministry, Dan Huntington Fenn, asked Vincent Silliman to create a worship service for the American Unitarian Association's May meeting to welcome the new ministers. Silliman had prepared a very brief, 15 minute service the year before, and there had most likely been a remembrance and welcome at one or both of the ministers' organizations meetings prior to that. But in 1949 the service was expanded, include a sermon by the Reverend Harry Meserve, was held at First Church in Boston on May 24, 1949, and called a Service to Commemorate the Living Tradition of the Unitarian Ministry.

Eight ministers who had passed away in the previous year were commemorated and eleven new ministers were recognized and welcomed. Two of the ministers welcomed that year are alive and well, the Reverend Howard Box and the Reverend Raymond Manker. Reverend Manker is with us tonight and will light the chalice. [Ray comes on stage]

In a letter to Silliman following that service, Fenn wrote "...I do believe as we continue having a special service of this kind, it will grow in significance and importance in the minds of the members of the Fellowship, both lay and clerical." And so it has come to pass, and to grow into what we now know as the Service of the Living Tradition.

These words as Rev. Manker kindles the flame:

May the flame kindled in this vessel,
symbol of the spark of the holy within every heart,
illuminate for us tonight
the past that has brought us thus far
and the future we trek together
in this Living Tradition we share. Amen.

Invocation [The Reverend Beth Miller speaking]

Hear these words of the poet, Rumi, chosen by this evening's preacher, to call us to worship.

Come, take a pick axe
And break apart
Your stony self.
The heart's matrix
Is glutted with rubies.
Springs of laughter
Are buried in your breast.
Unstop the wine jar,
Batter down the door
to the treasury of nonexistence.
The water in your jug
is brackish and low.
Smash the jug
and come to the river!

Introit The Road Home

Tune: "Prospect" from Southern Harmony 1835, adapted by Stephen Paulus; words by Michael Dennis Browne

Tell me where is the road I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost so long ago?
All these years I have wandered, Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling From far away,
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, Come away is the call,
With a love in your heart As the only song;
There's no such beauty as where you belong,
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

Remembering Those Who Have Died

The Reverend Dr. William G. Sinkford

In this annual Service, we honor those who have dedicated their life's work to the ministry we as Unitarian Universalists share. We begin, as they did in 1949, with the traditional roll call of those who have died in the past year. Indeed, it is a special honor to have Ray Manker, one of our ministers welcomed into Fellowship at that first Service of the Living Tradition, here with us

this evening, and to recall that, over the years, the names of nine colleagues welcomed into ministry with him have been called on evenings such as this.

Some whose names we call tonight had long careers and long retirements and died peacefully at advanced ages. Others died too soon, still engaged in active and vital ministries. All will be remembered with appreciation and affection by those they loved and those they served.

As I call the roll of those Unitarian Universalist ministers who have died in the past year and we view their images on the screens, hold the memory of their ministries in your hearts.

[The Reverend Dr. William G. Sinkford still speaking. A Powerpoint presentation of their photographs will be shown as the names are read.]

Berjoughie Bergler
Paul H. Bicknell
Penelope Binger
David M. Blanchard
Robert D. Botley
James C. Brewer
Max Alden Coots
Richard F. Drinon
Donald M. Hinckley
Barbara E. Hollerorth
Webster L. Kitchell
Felix Danford Lion
Donald W. Male
Thomas W. Martin
Guy Wheeler Meyer
Mary C. Nelson
Roy A. Ockert
Judith L. Quarles
Mounir R. Sa'adah
John R. B. Szala
John E. Trowbridge
Wilfrid W. Ward

The recent death of Judith Brown Osgood will be honored at the service next year.

Prayer Rev. Dr. William G. Sinkford

Please enter with me the place of silence and honesty which is known by many names. Will you pray with me?

Spirit of life and of love. Dear God.

We pray first in gratitude for these sisters and brothers in faith whose lives have ended. We give thanks for their years of service, their devotion, the many sacrifices we know they made in fulfilling their calling. We are blessed by their legacy of courage, creativity and commitment. We pray to be worthy of it and promise to keep faith with it. May we expand and enrich that legacy with the living of our lives and our ministries. Thus would their ministries live on in our hearts and through our hands. What they dreamed be ours to do.

Our prayers turn to loved ones left behind:

Partners, wives, husbands.

Sisters and brothers and cousins.

Sons and daughters.

Grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Friends, colleagues, clients and parishioners.

Dear God, so many have been deeply and personally touched by these ministers. Many mourn those whose names we've called. We join their grieving in these moments of prayer. We hold them in our hearts and pray that they have the support and help they need: caring others to be with them in their mourning. May they be upheld by love and faith as their lives gradually take new shape around the hole left by the absence of their loved ones. May they be blessed with comfort, consolation, and ultimately, peace.

As we give thanks for the committed lives of those who have passed away; as we honor professional religious leaders completing service and affirm and welcome those more recently among their ranks, we pray that these *lives that speak and deeds that beckon* will indeed *guide us on our way* as we, too, seek to courageously and honorably live our faith.

And now, in the silence, we offer the prayers of our hearts.

Silence

Music *Down to the River to Pray* Traditional, arr. Sheldon Curry

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way.

Oh, oh , oh, oh

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the robe and crown. Good Lord, Show me the way.

O brothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
Come on sisters let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way.

O fathers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O mothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

Honoring Those Completing Service

The Reverend Beth Miller
Ms. Anne Bancroft
The Reverend Nancy Doughty

[Introduction; Rev. Miller speaking]

The twenty six women and men we now recognize answered the call to ordained ministry and have served our movement with courage, compassion, conscience, and creativity. Together, they have given nearly five hundred years of service – and that's just the time they've served as ordained persons. Before their ordinations, and I'm sure following their retirements, their service will continue because that's just who these people are.

Whether they discovered their calling young and followed it lifelong, or whether they discovered it in their middle years, we are grateful that they discovered ministry, and ministry discovered them. They passed life through the fire of thought and thought through the fire of life, and our congregations, and our movement, are the better for it. After all names are read, our retiring ministers will rise and receive the congregation's appreciation for their dedicated service, and its best wishes for a long and hale retirement.

[The participants take turns reading the following names:]

Allison Barrett
Lauralyn Wyeth Bellamy
Jean Cook Brown
Roderick M. Brown
Thomas M. Cabezas
Vivienne Harmon Chapman
Sarah Elizabeth Clark
John Corrado
Douglas Ward Gallagher
Harry C. Green
Katherine Greenleaf
Penny Hackett-Evans
Timothy Ward Jensen
Dale Emerson Lanz
John B. LeRoy
William J. Metzger
Judith E. Meyer

Priscilla Murdock
Marjorie Rebmann
Roger Schriener
Marilyn Sewell
James N. Shumacker
Elizabeth M. Strong
Celia S. Thurston
Severn A. Towl
Virginia Wolf

Litany of Appreciation

[Revs. Miller and Doughty, Ms. Bancroft]:

Will the retiring ministers please rise in body or in spirit as the congregation reads the Litany of Appreciation for your faithful service.

Leader: For the life passages you sanctified; care you offered; silent witness you bore; and for all the tears of joy and sorrow you shed with your people:

All: *We rejoice and give thanks for the gifts of your heart.*

Ms. Bancroft: For the words you offered in truth and love; words of prophecy, instruction, comfort, and invitation; poems, prayers, laments and celebrations:

All: *We rejoice and give thanks for the gifts of your mind.*

Rev. Doughty: For your vision of a world more peaceful and just; for study and action, rallies and marches, letters and petitions, phone calls and meetings:

All: *We rejoice and give thanks for the gifts of your passion.*

Rev. Miller: For preaching, teaching, witnessing, organizing, facilitating, supporting, and being there; for your leadership in congregation and community; for souls touched, hearts inspired, and lives transformed:

All: *We rejoice and give thanks for the gifts of your dedicated service. May your days be long and joyful, and when your end-time is near, may the serenity of a life well lived be your joy. Amen.*

You may be seated.

**Affirming Ministers Attaining Final Fellowship
Credentialed Religious Educators, Master Level
Unitarian Universalist Credentialed Musicians**

**The Reverend Jory Agate
The Reverend Beth Williams
Ms. Jan Devor
Dr. Keith Arnold
Mr. Kenneth Herman**

[Introduction; Jory Agate & Beth Williams speaking]

It is a privilege and a pleasure to affirm and recognize ministers who have received Final Fellowship and religious educators who have received Masters Level Credentialing. In addition, we are now honoring those music leaders who have received the new UUA Music Leadership Credential.

Ministers who have attained Final Fellowship, in addition to completing all of the requirements of Preliminary Fellowship, have spent at least 3 years in active ministry being evaluated and developing their skills in parish, community and religious education settings.

Credentialed Religious Educators Masters Level have spent at least 3 years serving our congregations and communities, have undertaken extensive graduate education and have been evaluated in numerous competency areas essential to religious education leadership.

Credentialed Music Leaders have spent at least 3 years serving our congregations, have completed a rigorous three year academic and skill-based curriculum, and have been evaluated by their congregations, their peers, and the Association.

All of these individuals have worked hard, dedicated many hours, and committed their lives to becoming experienced, professional religious leaders. Their calling and ongoing commitment will continue to transform lives and profoundly impact our movement.

It is with gratitude for their service that we read the names of ministers who have attained Final Fellowship, the religious educators who have attained a Masters Level Credential, and the musicians who have attained the Music Leadership Credential. When all the names have been read, please rise and receive the congregation's words of affirmation.

[Revs. Williams and Agate, Dr. Arnold, Mr. Herman, Ms. Devor alternate as they read the following names]:

Therese Ann Baumberger
Amber Lynn Beland
Paul William Britner
Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
Laura Byers Cavicchio
Eva Magdalena Ceskava
Frank Clarkson
Jacqueline R. Clement
Matthew S. Cockrum
Matthew W. Crary
Anthony David
Bruce V. Davis
Mary Margaret Earl
Stefanie S. Etzbach-Dale
Lawrence M. Henson
Deborah Nowlin Highsmith

Deborah L. Holder
Laura MacDonald Horton-Ludwig
Francesca G. Hughes
Jennifer Elizabeth Innis
Heather Kristin Janules
Julie Camacho Kain
Jackie Kelly
Harlan G. Limpert
Cheryl Rubin Lloyd
Phillip Bruce Lund
Alison Beth Miller
Sarah Ivy Gibb Millspaugh
Barbara Eaton Molfese
Eric H. Ness
David Carl Olson
G. Kathleen Owens
Nancy Palmer Jones
Roger Charles Peltier
Ron Robinson
Craig H. Scott
James Peter Sherblom
Elizabeth Hopkins Stevens
Abigail J. Stockman
Julie Stoneberg
Leslie Takahashi Morris
Catherine Louise Torpey
Ralph A. Tyksinski
Lois E. Van Leer
Khleber Miller Van Zandt V
Susan Ellen Vollmer
Rali M. Weaver
Alison A. Wohler
Robin Landerman Zucker

And credentialed religious educators at the master level:

Michele Townsend Grove
Julie Porter

Unitarian Universalist Credentialed Musicians:

Vicky Gordon
Philip Hildreth
Constance Marie Jahrmarkt
Catherine Anne Massey
Emma Jean Moulton
Beth Syverson Nakao
J. Ruben Piirainen

Litany of Affirmation [Jory Agate speaking]

Please rise in body or in spirit to receive our affirmation.

Rev. Agate: You have been tried and tested. Your call has been challenged. Your contributions to congregation and community have been examined, appraised and measured. And you have succeeded.

All: *We give thanks for your devotion and celebrate your success.*

Ms. Devor: The UUA credentialing committees have scrutinized you and found you worthy. Your expertise and skill have been evaluated, accepted, and appreciated by those you have served.

All: *We affirm your calling and rejoice in your achievement.*

Dr. Arnold: As you appear before us tonight we name you and proclaim our confirmation of your full credentials as Unitarian Universalist ministers in Final Fellowship, Masters Level religious educators, and credentialed musicians.

All: *We give thanks for your leadership and pray these blessings will be yours: growing excellence, deepening satisfaction, and profound awareness of the Spirit of life and love surrounding and upholding you always. Amen.*

You may be seated.

**Welcoming Ministers Entering Preliminary Fellowship The Reverend David Pettee
The Reverend Rob Eller-Isaacs
The Reverend Wayne Arnason**

[Introduction – David Pettee speaking]

It is once again my privilege and pleasure to welcome into preliminary fellowship the 50 women and men who, during the past year, have met the requirements for service in the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Each of these ministerial colleagues has traveled a unique academic, personal and professional journey to cross this significant threshold. This year, we welcome into fellowship new ministers from 19 states and 1 Canadian province. All these ministers deserve our honor and praise for holding fast to their call to ministry and maintaining unshakable faith in the progress of the Unitarian Universalist tradition. When all the names have been read, please rise and receive the congregation's welcome.

[Revs. Arnason, Eller-Isaacs, Pettee alternate in reading the following names]:

Myron Dean Andes, Jr.
Kelly Weisman Asprooth-Jackson
Anne Elizabeth Barker
Wendy A. Bartel
Leslie Becknell Marx
David M. Breeden
Bryant Bossler Brown
Janet Colburn Bush
Mark J. T. Caggiano
Dawn Skjei Cooley
Jeanelyse Doran Adams
Kent Edward Doss
Jacqueline K. Duhart
Todd F. Eklof
Russell Keith Elleven
Jeremy T. Elliott
Alison Wilbur Eskildsen
Megan Leigh Foley
Kathleen Clark Fowler
Lynn Andrea Gardner
Pamela Ruth Gross
Jennifer Hamlin-Navias
Cynthia Delphine Heilman
Lucas Keith Hergert
Karen L. Hering
Karen L. Hutt
Jill Jarvis
Nina Irene Kalmoutis
Daniel J. Kane
Earl W. Koteen
Scott Talbot Lewis
Christopher M. Long
Megan Lara Lynes
Ian White Maher
Kristin Ann Maier
Suzanne Maureen Marsh
Emily Ann Melcher
David A. Miller
Ernest Mills
Jeremy D. Nickel
Margret A. O'Neill
Denis Letourneau Paul
John L. Saxon
Catherine Senghas
Susan M. Shaw

Stephen Sinclair
Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek
Nayer Taheri
Marie Tulin
Tracey L. Wilkinson

Litany of Welcome **[Revs. Pettee, Arnason, Eller-Isaacs]:**

Will the new ministers please rise in body or in spirit to receive our heartfelt welcome?

Rev. Pettee: From that early stirring in your heart, that first faint echo of a calling to something larger than you ever imagined you could become, you now appear before this congregation representing all Unitarian Universalist congregations.

All: *On behalf of the Living Tradition we share, we welcome you as religious leaders.*

Rev. Arnason: You have journeyed far, studied hard, learned more than you could have anticipated, and had experiences that have strengthened that echo into a full commitment. From aspirant to candidate to minister, you appear before us transformed. And yet, you are only just beginning. The true test of your calling lies before you.

All: *We honor your achievement and recognize your calling. As you journey on, may your sense of holy purpose grow as your ministry continues to mold and shape you.*

Rev. Eller-Isaacs: We have recognized you and called you by name, and when you are ordained, we will rejoice as we place the title, Reverend, before your name. As is often said in Unitarian Universalist child dedications:

All: *“May you wear this name in honor, in peace, and in courage such that all the days of your life, those who look upon your name will find it good.” May your ministry be blessed and a blessing to many. Amen*

You may be seated.

Invitation to Offering

The Rev. Richard Nugent

One of my favorite poems, found in Claiming the Spirit Within, is entitled, *Signing My Name*. The words and imagery of Alison Townsend:

*An artist always signs her name,
my mother said when I brought her my picture,
a puddle blur of scarlet tempera
I thought resembled a horse.*

*She dipped the brush for me
and watched while I stroked my name,*

each letter drying, ruddy,
permanent as blood.

Later, she found an old gilt frame
for me at an auction.
We repainted it pink,
encasing the wobble-headed horse
I'd conjured as carefully
as if it were by da Vinci,
whose notebooks on art
she was reading that summer.

Even when I was six, my mother
believed in my powers...
Which is why, when I sign my name,
I think of my mother...
the great, red horse I painted
still watching over us
from the smoke-scrimmed cave of the mind,
the way it did those first years
from the sunlit walls in her kitchen.

Alison Townsend invites us to remember those who encouraged us to sign our names to the work we do. As we receive your cash, checks, and pledges to the Living Tradition Fund – the fund that helps seminarians meet the increasing costs of theological education, provides our newest ministers with debt reduction grants, and provides emergency assistance to ministers, retirees and surviving spouses, in times of need.

This is your opportunity to honor the mentors who have helped you, and to be – at least in a financial way – mentors to the next generation of UU ministers. We hope to raise \$200,000 tonight. Checks should be made payable to the Living Tradition Fund. If you prefer, complete a pledge card for future payment. On behalf of all who will benefit, thank you for your generosity.

Offertory

“Golden Sonata”

“We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table”

Natasha Steinmacher

Gail Smith

Traditional

Reading for Two Voices

“Flare” by Mary Oliver (excerpts)

The Rev. William Sinkford

The Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh

[Rev. Sinkford]:

Welcome to the silly, comforting poem.
It is not the sunrise,
which is a red rinse,
which is flaring all over the eastern sky;
it is not the rain falling out of the purse of God;
or the trees, or the beetle burrowing into the earth;
it is not the mockingbird who, in his own cadence,
will go on sizzling and clapping
from the branches of the catalpa...
 that are billowing and shining,
 that are shaking in the wind.

[Rev. Gibb Millspaugh]:

Nothing is so delicate or so finely hinged as the wings
of the green moth
against the lantern
against its heat
against the beak of the crow...
Yet the moth has trim, and feistiness, and not a drop
 of self-pity.

[Rev. Sinkford]:

My mother
was the blue wisteria,
my mother
was the mossy stream out behind the house,
my mother, *alas, alas,*
did not always love her life,
heavier than iron it was
as she carried it in her arms, from room to room...
My father
was a demon of frustrated dreams,
was a breaker of trust,
was a poor, thin boy with bad luck...
Listen,
this was his life.
I bury it in the earth.
I sweep the closets.
I leave the house.
I mention them now,
I will not mention them again.
It is not lack of love
nor lack of sorrow.

But the iron thing they carried, I will not carry...
May they sleep well. May they soften.
But I will not give them the kiss of complicity.
I will not give them responsibility for my life.

[Rev. Gibb Millspaugh]:

Do you know that the ant has a tongue
with which to gather in all that it can
of sweetness?
Did you know that?

[Rev. Sinkford]:

The poem is not the world.
It isn't even the first page of the world.
But the poem wants to flower, like a flower.
It wants to open itself,
like the door to a little temple,
so that you might step inside and be cooled and refreshed,
and less yourself than part of everything...

[Rev. Gibb Millspaugh]:

Therefore, tell me:
what will engage you?
What will open the dark fields of your mind,
 like a lover
 at first touching?
When loneliness comes stalking, go into the fields...
Stare hard at the hummingbird, in the summer rain,
shaking the water-sparks from its wings.
Let grief be your sister, she will whether or no.
Rise up from the stump of sorrow, and be green also,
 like the diligent leaves.

[Rev. Sinkford]:

A lifetime isn't long enough for the beauty of this world
and the responsibilities of your life.
Scatter your flowers over the graves, and walk away.
Be good natured and untidy in your exuberance.
In the glare of your mind, be modest.
Live with the beetle, and the wind.
This is the dark bread of the poem.
This is the dark and nourishing bread of the poem.

SERMON

A Lifetime Isn't Long Enough - The Rev. Dr. Mary J. Harrington

(see http://www.uua.org/documents/harringtonmary/090626_lifetime_not_enough.pdf)

[Rev. Beth Miller]:

Thanks you, Mary, for your wisdom. And now, let us rise in body or in spirit and sing “For the Earth Forever Turning.”

Hymn

“For the Earth Forever Turning” words and music, Kim Oler, arr. Nick Page

[congregation singing]

For the earth forever turning, for the skies, for ev'ry sea;
for our lives, for all we cherish,
sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the mountains, hills, and pastures in their silent majesty,
for the stars for all the heavens,
sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the sun, for rain and thunder, for the seasons' harmony,
for our lives, for all creation,
sing we our joyful praise to Thee.

For the world we raise our voices, for the home that gives us birth;
in our joy we sing returning
home to our blue-green hills of earth.

Benediction

Please be seated.

The Rev. Beth Miller

We have honored, affirmed and appreciated these professional religious leaders
whose life work is dedicated to the faith we share.

The service is ending, but the ministries we share with them in our congregations and
communities carry on to help make the world a little more beautiful and just.

We end with these words from our preacher, the Reverend Dr. Mary Harrington:

Every day look at the world with your wide and grateful eyes.

Every day let something thrill you with delight.

Let go of all that is harsh and harmful every day.

Remember each day as a god.
Each day arrives wrapped in its particular mystery and intent.
Be still and know the gods of your days.

Every day chain yourself to the tree of life.
Every day however desperate love one thing hard.
Say to all with ears to hear, *Thy life is a miracle* every day.

Never forget the world needs your precise gifts.
Each day offer and bless, stand and love, surrender and praise.
Live with all your might, love with all your heart, and may you go in peace. Amen.

And now, let us once again rise in body or in spirit to sing our recessional hymn, *For All the Saints*.

Recessional Hymn

“For All The Saints”

For all the saint who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name most holy be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast our rock, their shelter, and their might,
their strength and solace in the well fought fight;
thou, in the darkness deep their one true light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion of the saints divine!
We live in struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the conflict long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Natasha Steinmacher

"Air" from The Royal Water Music by G.F. Handel