

Supportive Documents

*The Order of Service. Please note the relevant introductory remarks.

*Remarks and readings by the Worship Leader, Suzanne Kimmel.

*The text from the book, *We Are Water Protectors*, which was used as the "Story for All Ages,"
read by Allison Bronkall.

*The citations for the readings, special music, and "Story for All Ages."

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

PO Box 506

Bayside, CA 95524

Order of Service for UN Sunday

October 25, 2020

This is United Nations' Sunday. It celebrates the work of the U.N. and our Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations (UU@UN). This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the U.N. The theme for this year's celebration is "All in for Climate Justice: People, Power, Planet."

Climate change is a human rights issue. The increase in extreme weather conditions in just the past few years makes it clear that we need to work together to make our world more livable. Our UU faith can provide the ethical and spiritual grounding to sustain us as we create a new way of being in relationship with all of life and our planet Earth.

[VIDEO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHzpwhG-Cpc) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHzpwhG-Cpc>

Gathering Music: Bunesan~ Gaelic Hymn Tune Annette Gurnee Hull

Welcome & Service Orientation Scarlett Trippsmith

Chalice Lighting and Aspiration Suzanne Kimmel

Music/Hymn video—[Blue Boat Home](#)

Joys, Sorrows, & Celebrations Suzanne Kimmel

Moment of Silence..... Suzanne Kimmel

Silence to Story: Rop tá mo Baile ~Irish Folk Melody.....Annette Gurnee Hull

Story for All Ages: "We Are Water Protectors" Allison Bronkall

Transition Suzanne Kimmel

Presentation A..... (Youth 1)

Presentation B..... (Adult 1)

Music/Hymn Video—[The Tide is Rising](#)

Presentation C..... (Youths 2 and 3)

Presentation D..... (Adult 2)

Offertory to UU@UN

Offertory: Gort na Saileán by Herbert Hughes..... Annette Gurnee Hull

Extinguish Chalice & Closing Words..... Suzanne Kimmel

Recessional: Go from Here in Peace, Go in Love

UN Sunday Worship Leader Suzanne Kimmel: Remarks and Readings

Introduction:

United Nations Sunday celebrates the work of the United Nations and our Unitarian Universalist Office at the UN. Each year there is a focus for the UU Office. The theme this year is “All in For Climate Justice: People, Power, Planet”. Our presenters will share their stories on different aspects of what we are celebrating today.

Reading from Robin Wall Kimmerer’s book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, p. 367

“They say that a prophet appeared with a strange and distant light in his eyes. The young man came to the people with the message that in the time of the seventh fire, a new people would emerge with a sacred purpose. It would not be easy for them. They would have to be strong and determined in their work, for they stood at a crossroads.

The ancestors look to them from the flickering light of distant fires. In this time, the young would turn back to the elders for teachings and find that many had nothing to give. The people of the Seventh Fire do not yet walk forward; rather, they are told to turn around and retrace the steps of the ones who brought us here. Their sacred purpose is to walk back along the red road of our ancestors’ path and to gather up all the fragments that lay scattered along the trail. Fragments of land, tatters of language, bits of songs, stories, sacred teachings—all that was dropped along the way. Our elders say that we live in the time of the seventh fire. We are the ones the ancestors spoke of, the ones who will bend to the task of putting things back together to rekindle the flames of the sacred fire, to begin the rebirth of a nation.”

Chalice lighting:

I light this chalice for hope that by gathering together as a community, we can continue to support and challenge each other in choosing the pay of balance, justice and peace.

Transition:

Reading from Robin Wall Kimmerer from *Braiding Sweetgrass*, p. 368

“The Seventh Fire prophecy presents a second vision for the time that is upon us. It tells that all the people of the earth will see that the path ahead is divided. They must make a choice in their path to the future. One of the roads is soft and green with new grass. You could walk barefoot there. The other path is scorched black, charred; the cinders would cut your feet. If the people choose the grassy path, then life will be sustained. But if they choose the cinder path, the damage they have wrought upon the earth will turn against them and bring suffering and death to earth’s people.

We do indeed stand at the crossroads. Scientific evidence tells us we are close to the tipping point of climate change, the end of fossil fuels, the beginning of resource depletion. Ecologists estimate that we would need seven planets to sustain the lifeway’s we have created. And yet those lifeways, lacking balance, justice and peace, have not brought us contentment. They have brought us the loss of our relatives in a great wave of extinction. Whether or not we want to admit it, we have a choice ahead, a crossroads.”

Our speakers today come with a variety of experiences and knowledge to share their reflections on the role of Unitarian Universalism in the world and particularly around the United Nations and climate justice. They speak with a shared commitment to improving the world.

We will be hearing from Slate Taylor, Ann Kilby, Sydney Bronkall, Savannah Taylor and Sue Lee Mossman.

Extinguishing the chalice & closing words:

Reading from Robin Wall Kimmerer's book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, p. 371

“What does it mean to be the people of the seventh fire, to walk back along the ancestral road and pick up what was left behind? How do we recognize what we should reclaim and what is dangerous refuse? What is truly medicine for the living path and what is a drug of deception? None of us can recognize every piece, let alone carry it all. We need each other, to take a song, a word, a story, a tool, a ceremony and put it in our bundles. Not for ourselves, but for the ones yet to be born, for all our relations. Collectively, we assemble from the wisdom of the past a vision for the future, a worldview shaped by mutual flourishing.

Our spiritual leaders interpret this prophecy as the choice between the deadly road of materialism that threatens the land and the people, and the soft path of wisdom, respect, and reciprocity that is held in the teachings of the first fire. It is said that if the people choose the green path, then all races will go forward together to light the eighth and final fire of peace and brotherhood, forging the great nation that was foretold long ago.”

I extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community and the fire of commitment.

***We Are Water Protectors*—Read by Allison Bronkall for "Story for All Ages"**

Written by Carole Lindstrom

Illustrated by Michaela Goade

Roaring Book Press, New York, ©2020

p. 1

Water is the first medicine, Nokomis told me.

p. 2

We come from water.

It nourished us inside our mother's body.

As it nourishes us here on Mother Earth.

Water is sacred, she said.

p. 3

We stand

With our songs

And our drums.

We are still here.

p. 4

The river's rhythm runs through my veins.

Runs through my people's veins.

p. 5

My people talk of a black snake that will destroy the land.

p. 6

Spoil the water.

Poison plants and animals.

Wreck everything in its path.

p. 7

When my people first spoke

of the black snake,

They foretold that it wouldn't come

for many, many years.

p. 8

Now the black snake is here.

Its venom burns the land.

Courses through the water,

Making it unfit to drink.

p. 9

TAKE COURAGE!

I must keep the black snake away

From my village's water.

I must rally my people together.

p. 10

To stand for the water.

To stand for the land.

To stand as ONE.

Against the black snake.

p. 11

We stand
with our songs
and our drums.

We are still here.

p. 12

It will not be easy.

p. 13

We fight for those
Who cannot fight for themselves:

The winged ones,
The crawling ones,

p. 14

The four-legged,
The two-legged,
The plants, trees, rivers, lakes,

p. 15

The Earth.

p. 16

We are all related.

p. 17

Tears like waterfalls stream down.
Tracks down my face.

Tracks down my people's faces.

p. 18

Water has its own spirit,

Nokomis told me.

p. 19

Water is alive.

Water remembers our ancestors

Who came before us, she said.

p. 20

We stand

With our songs

And our drums.

We are still here.

p. 21

We are stewards of the Earth.

Our spirits have not been broken.

p. 22

We are water protectors.

WE STAND!

p. 23

The black snake is in for the fight of its life!

Citations for Readings and Music

The Tide is Rising, lyrics and music by Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman and Yotam Schachter

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Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants

by Robin Wall Kimmerer, Milkweed Editions, ©2013.

We are Water Protectors, written by Carol Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade, Roaring

Brook Press, ©2020.

Active Hope: How to Face This Mess We're in Without Going Crazy, by Joanna Macy and Chris

Johnstone, New World Library, ©2012.