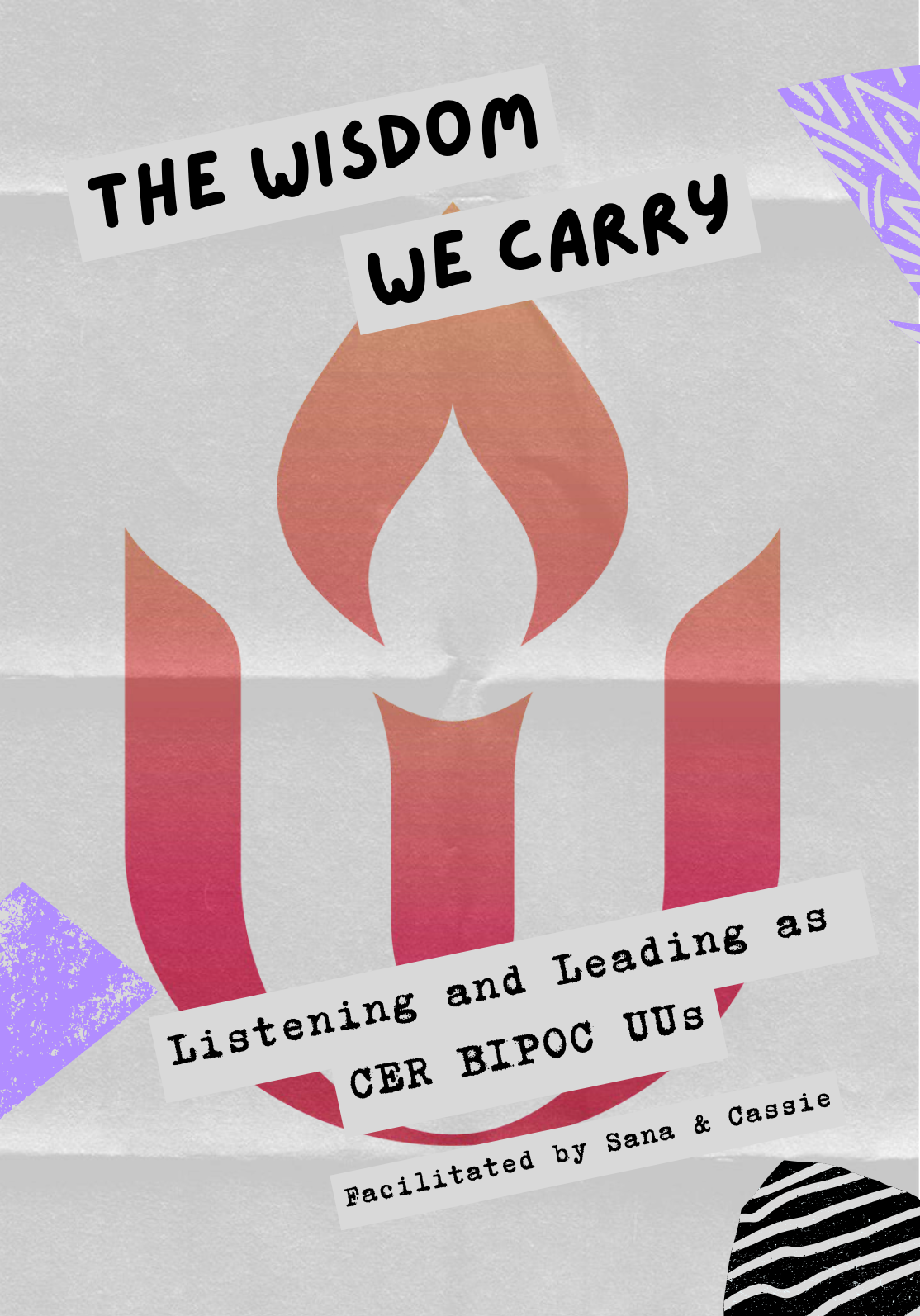


THE WISDOM

WE CARRY

**Listening and Leading as
CER BIPOC UUs**

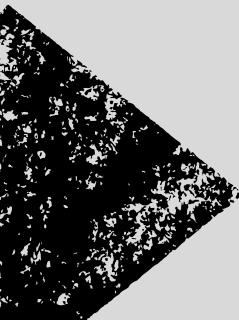
Facilitated by Sana & Cassie



Lucille Clifton



"WON'T YOU
CELEBRATE
WITH ME."

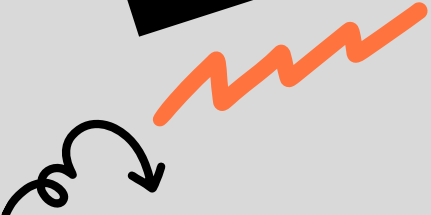


**"WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO
SHARE WITH CARE?"**



**"Move at the
speed of
trust."**

**"Lead with deep
care."**



**Center rest,
resilience, and
joy as sacred
forms of
resistance**

**Caring for our
own bodies
while holding
space for the
bodies around
us.**

**"Make space for
others."**



The moment we're in

WHAT SURFACED

Deep analysis lives here

What's Heavy

FEAR OF AUTHORITARIANISM

UNCERTAINTY

OVERWHELM

NOT SURPRISED

RACISM

**LOSING FREEDOM OF
SPEECH**

LOSS OF DEMOCRACY

What's Rising

TRUTH-TELLING

TRUST

FEAR

COURAGE

HOPELESSNESS

GRATITUDE TO OUR ELDERS

PARTNERSHIPS

What's Possible

SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

**SOMETHING. OUR ANCESTORS
SURVIVED SO WE CAN.....**

RESIST! PROTEST!

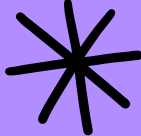
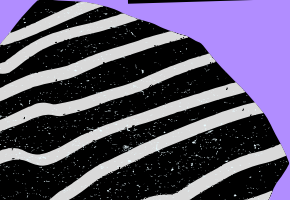
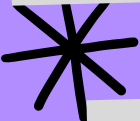
**"WE HAVE BARELY GLIMPSED THE
POSSIBILITIES FOR OUR FAITH..."**

INVITATION

TAKE ACTION!

FIGHT

REST AND RESIST.





COMMUNITY BLESSING



Peace be to all. - Marva (Phil)

For holding space for this work. - Rev. Dianne

Sometimes it's just good to be together. - Valerie

Preparing yourself for a fight. - Chris

Support each other, love each other.

Be kind to each other. - Doreion

Honor our ancestors by keeping the fight going. -

Eduardo

With these words and blessings, we turn off the

chalices tonight. We blow out those flames,

knowing that the flame flickers on in each of us.

Blessed be. - Cassandra

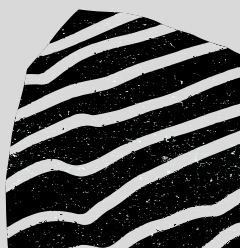
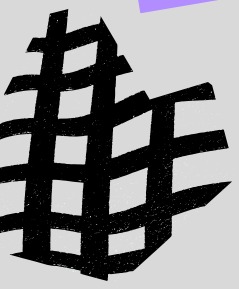
Blessings. We'll see you next time. - Sana



Rev Julián Jamaica Soto



"WE HOLD HOPE
CLOSE"



HOW DO BIPOC ONLY SPACES LIKE THIS SUPPORT BIPOC FOLKS AND THEIR NEEDS?



Shared understanding

Common Cultural Experiences

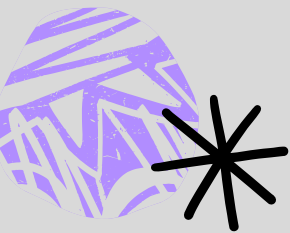
Deeper listening

Less need to code switch

Space rich with ritual

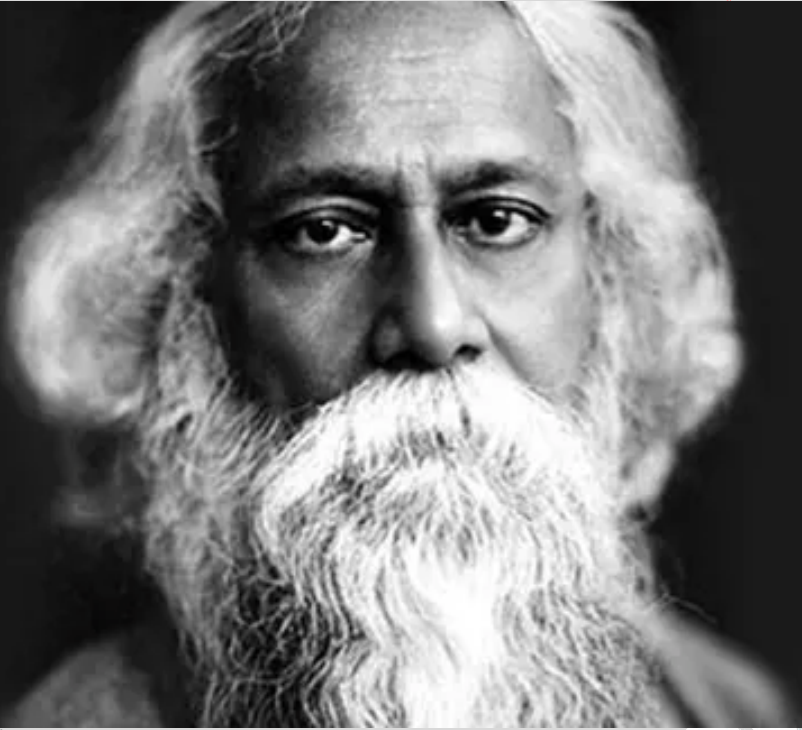
Feeling of belonging and less isolated/lonely

Being understood





Rabindranath Tagore




**"GIVE ME
STRENGTH"**





JOY HARJO



We gave thanks for the story, for all parts of the story
because it was by the light of those challenges we knew
ourselves—

We asked for forgiveness.

We laid down our burdens next to each other.

**"CONFLICT RESOLUTION
FOR HOLY BEINGS"**

12/17

What's Grounding Us?

DRUUMM'S "AIMING FOR ALLYSHIP" TRAINING

"CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS CONVERSATION"
WITH JESSICA YORK & REV CHERYL WALKER

PERSONAL MEDICINE BOXES

POETRY WRITTEN & SHARED BY ONE ANOTHER

TAPROOT

How Do We Continue to Make Space for us as
BIPOC UUs?

TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES SO WE
CAN SHOW UP WHEN WE'RE NEEDED

CELEBRATING ONE ANOTHER'S
ACHIEVEMENTS

EVALUATING, REVIEWING, BUILDING
A CONGREGATIONAL STRUCTURE
THAT'S SHAPED BY OUR VALUES


LIVING UP TO OUR VALUES
PERSONALLY & IN COMMUNITY

"Your native soil is really your home
foundation, no matter what it is."

-Dorien


12.17.2025

MEET THE MOMENT
A SPIRIT-CENTERED POEM FOR THE CER
BIPOC GATHERING



I COME TO THIS CIRCLE CARRYING MORE
THAN AN OBJECT— I BRING THE BREATH
GOD PLACED IN MY LUNGS, THE
STRENGTH MY ANCESTORS PRAYED INTO
MY BONES, AND THE WHISPER OF SPIRIT
THAT GUIDES ME BACK TO MYSELF WHEN
THE WORLD FEELS HEAVY.

I BRING SOMETHING SMALL—A SYMBOL,
A MEMORY, A PIECE OF CREATION—NOT
BECAUSE IT IS PERFECT, BUT BECAUSE
IT REMINDS ME THAT THE HOLY OFTEN
ARRIVES IN HUMBLE FORMS.
GROUNDING IS A PRACTICE OF
RETURNING, A CHOOSING, A LISTENING
FOR THE SACRED IN THE ORDINARY.



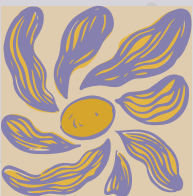
IN THIS SPACE, WE GATHER AS WE ARE—
BELOVED, IMPERFECT, RESILIENT. WE
GATHER WITH THE WEIGHT OF OUR DAYS
AND THE BRILLIANCE OF OUR SURVIVAL.
WE GATHER WITH THE WISDOM OF
THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US, AND THE
COURAGE OF THOSE WE ARE BECOMING.
SPIRIT MEETS US HERE— IN OUR
LAUGHTER, IN OUR SILENCE, IN THE
SIMPLE ACT OF SHOWING UP.
OUR COVENANT HOLDS US, NOT AS A
RULE BUT AS A LIVING PROMISE—
SHAPED BY OUR PRESENCE, OUR
HONESTY, OUR EVOLVING WISDOM. IT
REMINDS US THAT COMMUNITY IS
SACRED WORK, TENDED WITH INTENTION,
RENEWED EACH TIME WE RETURN TO
ONE ANOTHER.

SO TONIGHT, AS WE CLOSE THIS WAVE
BUT NOT OUR JOURNEY, MAY WE MEET
THE MOMENT WITH OPEN HANDS. MAY
WE HONOR WHAT GROUNDS US, WHAT
STRENGTHENS US, WHAT CALLS US
DEEPER INTO TRUTH. MAY WE
REMEMBER THAT THE DIVINE MOVES
THROUGH EACH OF US— IN EVERY
SEASON, IN EVERY GATHERING, IN EVERY
BREATH.

WE ARE NOT ALONE. WE ARE HELD. WE
ARE CONNECTED. WE ARE ENOUGH.

BY: CHAPLAIN BOBBIE COLT

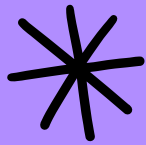
WE GATHER AS WE ARE



I COME...I BRING.
I SHOW UP ANYWAY.
WE GATHER (AS) WE ARE.

The Wisdom We Carry is
gathered along the way.

This Moment is calling us to
actively create and protect spaces
for BIPOC Unitarian Universalists to
feel deeply seen, understood,
spiritually flourish, and powerfully
equipped to lead, heal, and reimagine
our communities in alignment with our
shared values in this moment of
national and institutional erasure.



Created in 2025 by facilitators of
the CER BIPOC Gathering, Sana Saeed
& Cassandra Montenegro.

