

A LITURGY FOR CLOSING THE UUA ELECTION OF 2001

**Offered by the Rev.'s Wayne Arnason and Kathleen Rolenz
Saturday, June 23, 10:15 PM - Renaissance Hotel Ballroom**

INVOCATION #440 From the Fragmented World Philip Hewitt

OPENING HYMN #360 Here We Have Gathered

Here we have gathered, gathered side by side.
Circle of kinship, come and step inside!
May all who seek here find a kindly word;
May all who speak here feel they have been heard.
Sing now together, this our hearts' own song.

Here we have gathered, called to celebrate
Days of our lifetime, matters small and great;
We of all ages, women, children, men,
Infants and sages, sharing what we can.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.

Life has its battles, sorrows and regret:
But in the shadows, let us not forget:
We who now gather know each other's pain;
Kindness can heal us; as we give, we gain.
Sing now in friendship, this our hearts' own song.

BEATITUDES FOR THOSE WHO CAMPAIGN

Wayne: Let us praise those who have created and who sustain our free churches and the Association which serves them.

Kathleen: Blessed are they still among us and those departed who shared in the creation of the Unitarian Universalist Association and its democratic systems, uniting two free church traditions for selecting those who would lead us. Blessed are they for we call them our visionaries.

CONGREGATION: BLESSED ARE THEY INDEED.

Wayne: Blessed are those who have been our servants these past forty years, in roles both volunteer and paid, for tasks both large and small. Blessed are they for we call them our leaders.

CONGREGATION: BLESSED ARE THEY INDEED.

Kathleen: Blessed are they who come forward from our community of congregations willing to offer themselves as servants to our larger movement. Despite the requirements of campaign self promotion, they secretly fear that their talents may be small compared to our needs which are great. The results of their time and effort may often be hard to see. Not all can win. Blessed are they for we call them our candidates.

CONGREGATION: BLESSED ARE THEY INDEED.

Wayne: Blessed are they who serve the causes of the candidates and the larger cause of our fair and free electoral process. With time and money, through writing and speaking, in list-serves and position papers, they help the candidates believe in themselves and renew the spirit of democracy at the heart of our faith. Blessed are they, for we call them our campaigners.

CONGREGATION: BLESSED ARE THEY INDEED.

Kathleen: Blessed are they who voted in these elections, who took the time to engage the issues and to learn about the candidates, and who took seriously the responsibility of choosing our leaders. Blessed are they for we call them the delegates.

CONGREGATION: BLESSED ARE THEY INDEED.

Wayne: Blessed are they who win and those who lose this day, for regardless of which has more votes and which has less, each will lose and each will win in ways they can't predict. Blessed are they all, for when all is said and done, we still call each other "friend."

CONGREGATION: BLESSED BE.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

WORDS OF CLOSING FOR THE 2001 ELECTION

PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO SERVE Rev. Arnason

UNISON AFFIRMATION #473

Love is the spirit of this church
and service its law.
This is our great covenant.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.

James Vila Blake

CLOSING HYMN #131 Love Will Guide Us

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
Hope inside us will lead the way
On the road from greed to giving
Love will guide us through the hard night.

If you cannot sing like angels
If you cannot speak before thousands,
You can give from deep within you,
You can change the world, with your love.

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
Hope inside us will lead the way
On the road from greed to giving
Love will guide us through the hard night.

BENEDICTION a variation on #698 Rev. Arnason