

Decorah Unitarian Universalist

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Welcome and Announcements - Sue Otte, Service Leader

Today's service relates to: our August theme of Beloved Community. We reflect upon all our principles as we seek to work toward this worthy goal.

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice as a symbol of the light we each bring to this place, light we seek to share with one another and our communities as we walk each other home with love and joy.
Reflection on words by Ram Das

Opening Song "To Call Myself Beloved"

**And did you get what
you wanted from this life, even so?
I did.**

**And what did you want?
To call myself beloved, to feel myself
beloved on the earth.**

From the poem "Late Fragment" by Raymond Carver

Land Acknowledgement

Joys and Sorrows You may light a votive candle as you share any joys or concerns with the fellowship.

Reading "We Belong: Tools for Weaving Community Right Where We Are." (excerpt) by Liz Rog

Silence / Response Your joy is my joy; your sorrow, my sorrow.
Together we live our days, together we love this place. In beloved community, we are not alone.
...Ellen Rockne

Offering / Response #128 For all that is our life, we sing our thanks and praise. For all life is a gift that we are called to use to build the common good, and make our own days glad. ...Findlow

"We Belong"

with Liz Rog

We humans carry the longing and the capacity to connect, to care for each other, and to create beauty together. Wherever we are, in city, town, and countryside, at every age and stage, we can step across the false border of individualism and weave community, one day at a time. There is no place to begin but right here, where we each live.

Let's shine a light on the simple and natural ways we are doing this in our homes and neighborhoods and imagine into a future where more people can know that they belong.

Closing Song "Net of Remembrance",

**Everyone feels and carries different parts of the story
And together we weave, we weave a net of remember, of
remembrance
We are not made, we are not created to hold this,
hold this all alone
by Ahlay Blakeley**

Extinguishing the Chalice

May we go from this place renewed in spirit,
confident of the cherished part we all play in holding community
as right relationship between soil, soul, and society, powered up by
the passion of the heart, steered by the reason of the head, and then
applied by the skilled technique of the hand. Blessed Be!
Adapted from Alastair McIntosh



Upcoming Sundays

September 10 - Ingathering at Twin Springs

Bring a jar of water from your summer journeys far away, imagined, or even from your own tap. Sue Otte will lead this annual outdoor Sunday Service at one of Decorah UU's favorite locations, Twin Springs.

September 17 "Adaptive Ministry"

When one strand of the web is broken, the entire web is prone to collapse. When we in UU spaces speak of our 7th principle, belief in the interdependent web of all existence, we are not merely speaking in metaphors. Our existences are intricately woven with all life. When violence, oppression, and marginalization occur elsewhere in the world we are consciously and unconsciously bound to it, and vice versa. A service by Cameron Young of MidAmerica Region, read by Decorah UU

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September 3, 2023

“We Belong”

with Liz Rog



photo by Decorah UU member, Ellen Macdonald