

Order of Worship
Religious Education Sunday
June 2, 2019

If you wish to share a personal joy or sorrow with the congregation, please write it at the joys and sorrows table and place it in the basket there. These will be posted on the joys and sorrows bulletin board in the foyer, so that people at both services may be aware of important events in our lives. You can also privately send a joy or sorrow to the Pastoral Care Team by emailing care@a2u2.org.

Thought for Contemplation:

Ingathering Chimes

Chalice Lighting

This is the church of the flaming chalice,
 This is the church of the open mind,
 This is the church of the loving heart,
 This is the church of the of the helping hands,
 Where friends come together to share.

Introit. Choir *Circle of Song*, Tony Turner

Call to Worship. Rev. Anita

We gather this morning in wonder and welcome

Wonder at a world that opens itself to us each day

Wonder at all there is for us to learn

Wonder at all there are for us to meet

Wonder at what and who the day will bring

All this we welcome, here,

Into our hearts,

As we gather.

Come, let us worship together.

Anita Farber-Robertson

Hymn. *Siyahamba* #1030

Candles of Joy and Sorrow

Meditation and Prayer

Introductory Reflection Rev. Anita

Introductory Reflection

Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson

Have you ever really had a teacher? One who saw you as a raw but precious thing, a jewel that, with wisdom, could be polished to a proud shine? If you are lucky enough to find your way to such teachers, you will always find your way back.¹

So says Mitch Alborn – who poses an important question.

Have you ever really had a teacher? One who saw you as a raw but precious thing, a jewel that, with wisdom, could be polished to a proud shine?

I know where mine have been. Where have they been for you? It might have been a teacher in a school, but as often as not, it was a sports coach, a neighbor, a camp counselor, a babysitter, a friend's parent, an older sibling, or someone at church. A music director. A minister. A director of religious Education, or a Sunday School teacher or youth group advisor who stopped and really listened, who thought what you had to say was important, who transported you out of the constraints of your day-to-day world and opened up windows through which you could see possibilities, and doors through which you would eventually

¹ Mitch Alborn, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, quoted in *In Praise of Our Teachers*, Gloria Wade Gayles, ed.

walk. People who wore their values on their sleeves, where you could see them and absorb them, making those empowering values your own. People who saw you as a “somebody” and helped you believe it. People who helped you see others as precious, knowing that honoring their value did not diminish your own, but made it even more clear. Those teachers. Have you had one?

I once had a ministerial intern who was also serving as our half time DRE. One day at our weekly meeting she expressed frustration and concern.

“We spend so many hours on this preparation for Sunday. Does it make any sense to put in so many hours to produce one hour of an experience?”

“It is true that it is only one hour,” I admitted “but it is a powerful hour. “

This is sacred time, time we, and our people have set aside to remember what is truly of worth and recommit ourselves to being such a people, and following such a path. It is the way we most clearly and effectively create the world in which we want to live, modeling it for our children and loving them into being their best selves. And we do it together, as a congregation, and in the one-on-one relationships we forge, children and adults, learning and becoming together.

This is the core of our church, of social justice, of faithful living. Raising our children with Unitarian Universalist values. Our most important mission. If we fail that, the rest is for naught. If we succeed, lives are transformed, and the world is more beautiful.

We say we believe in universal salvation, but the only way to save the universal, is one small person and one small relationship at a time.

That is our work. And today we celebrate it as the holy work that it is. Thank you, teachers, one and all.

Song. *This Little Light of Mine*

Testimonial. Ted Bridge-Koneningsberg

Song/Reading Father Abraham (Blue Team)

Presentation LGBTQ (JYG)

Testimonial Jaime Eller

Offertory Theo on trumpet

Song. *I'm Going to Let Life Move Me* (Green Team w/congregation)

Testimonial. Sonia Tonelli

RE Volunteer Acknowledgement (DRE Bob Moseley)

Hymn *Come Sing a Song with Me* #346

Closing Words Rev. Anita