



December 20, 2020

Sparkles in the Stillness

Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church
Founded in 1821

Celebrating Diversity, Encouraging Spiritual Growth,
and Promoting Social Responsibility

Please visit www.A2U2.org to learn more about us!

Order of Service

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Emily C. Jones, Director of Religious Education

OPENING MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP *Winter Solstice* Rev. Rebecca Parker

OPENING HYMN *# 83 *Winds Be Still* singer: Terri Grover

LIGHTING THE CHALICE **May We Be Keepers of Thy Flame* Richard S. Gilbert

TIME FOR ALL AGES Rev. Donna Dolham

ANTHEM *Stillness Reigns* A2U2 Choir

PRAYER/MEDITATION * *Breathed into the World* Rev. Sandra Fees

MUSICAL RESPONSE

REFLECTION *Sparkles in the Stillness* Rev. Donna Dolham

HYMN *# 388 *Dona Nobis Pacem*

READING ***For Joy* Rev. Jan Richardson
janrichardson.com

CLOSING HYMN *# 298 *Wake Now My Senses* singer: John Howard

BENEDICTION *# 456 *Singing the Living Tradition*

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

CLOSING MUSIC

*Permission obtained for streaming through Soul Matter's subscription, UUA in streaming services, or public domain status.

**Permission offered on her website Janrichardson.com

Please join us after the service for online (coffee hour) at 10:45.

- Break out group focus questions...
What are the ways Allen Avenue UU Church lives into a theology of Love?
What are you willing to risk for joy?
What holds you back from engaging in some of the silliness of life?
What are the next steps Allen Avenue can take to live into a theology of joy?
Where are the sparkles for you personally during this holiday season?

About the authors for today's service

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker is a theologian who served as president of the Unitarian Universalist Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, from 1999 to 2014. She is the co-author with Rita Nakashima Brock of [*Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering, and the Search for What Saves Us*](#) (Beacon Press, 2001) and [*Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire*](#) (Beacon Press, 2008) and co-author, with John A. Buehrens, of [*A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century*](#) (Beacon Press, 2011). A collection of her essays, *Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now*, appeared in 2006 (Skinner House Books).



Jan Richardson is an artist, writer, and ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. She serves as director of The Wellspring Studio, LLC, and has traveled widely as a retreat leader and conference speaker. With work described by the Chicago Tribune as “breathtaking,” she has attracted an international audience drawn to the spaces of welcome, imagination, and solace that she creates in both word and image. Jan’s books include *The Cure for Sorrow*, *Night Visions*, *In the Sanctuary of Women*, and the recently released *Sparrow: A Book of Life and Death and Life*.



A native Floridian several generations over, Jan grew up in Evinston, a small community near the university town of Gainesville. The rural landscape, community traditions, and lifelong relationships fostered a rich sense of place, imagination, and ritual that continue to shape Jan's life and infuse her work.

Jan makes her home in Florida. She often collaborated with her husband, the singer/songwriter [Garrison Doles](#), until his sudden death in December 2013.

You can find Jan's distinctive artwork, writing, and more at her blogs and websites:

[The Painted Prayerbook](#)

[The Advent Door](#)

janrichardson.com

Rev. Dr. Sandra Fees has served First UU Church of Berks County, Reading, PA for 15 years. She completed theological studies at Lancaster Theological Seminary where she earned a Master of Divinity degree in 2003 and a Doctor of Ministry in 2018. She holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in English Literature from Shippensburg and Syracuse Universities, respectively. Prior to being called to Unitarian Universalist ministry, she worked in corporate marketing communications



The Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert retired in 2005 after serving 44 years in the Unitarian Universalist ministry in Cleveland, Ohio, Golden, Colorado, Ithaca, New York, and for 32 years at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, New York. He received an M.Div. from St. Lawrence University Theological School, a D.Min. from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and honorary doctorates from St. Lawrence University, Meadville Lombard Theological School, and Starr King School for the Ministry.



He is the author of the [Building Your Own Theology](#) adult religious education series, as well as three Skinner House Books: [The Prophetic Imperative: Social Gospel in Theory and Practice](#), [How Much Do We Deserve? An Inquiry in Distributive Justice](#), and [In the Holy Quiet of This Hour](#), a book of meditations.

Today is December 20th, 2020

For links to all ONLINE meetings and programs, please refer to the [Breeze Calendar](#)

December's SHARE THE PLATE

Every week, A2U2 shares a percentage of the week's non-pledge offering to a local organization whose mission and vision aligns with Unitarian Universalist Principles. The Share the Plate recipient for December is the Minister's Discretionary Fund. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is at the heart of our common ministry. It is a visible demonstration of our care for each other. Your generous gifts allow the minister to provide assistance to members of our church community or of the greater Portland community who are experiencing difficult times financially. If you are struggling with your finances in these challenging times, please contact Rev. Donna.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

[Janrichardson.com](#)

[Winchester Statement of Faith](#)

[Winchester Profession](#)

[This Joy](#) by the Resistance Revival Chorus

BOOKS

Harris, Mark, *Historical Dictionary of Unitarian Universalism*, Lanham, Scarecrow Press Inc., 2004.

Harris, Mark and Andrea Greenwood, *An Introduction to the Unitarian and Universalist Traditions*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Tutu, Desmond, Dalai lama and Douglas Abrams, *The Book of Joy*, New York, Avery, an imprint of Penguin Press, 2016.

The creation of services takes a team!

Thank you to our Music Director, Dale Churchill, and hymn singers, John Howard and Terri Grover! And, thank you to the A2U2 Choir!

Thank you Erica Bartlett for video editing and John Howard for editing the hymns for this week's service.

Thank you George Hixon for posting the service information for today's service and community conversation.

Thank you Alice Alexander for preparing the zoom link and hymn information.

Thank you Erica Bartlett & Katrina VanBrugh for creating the announcement for this week's events and service.

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Dale Churchill, Music Director ~ dalechurchill@gmail.com
Emily Jones, Director of Religious Education ~ dre@a2u2.org**