

December Soul Matters Theme is Opening to Joy



I Love to Laugh

Sunday, December 26 - 10:15 am
Youtube Livestream

Welcome to the Unitarian Church of Evanston's Worship Service.
Please feel free to participate from home with your family and
join in full-throated singing!

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Ring the Chime

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Reading *Joy is Hard* by Rev. Joe Cherry

Introit *Humoresque* by Antonin Dvorak Gregory Shifrin, piano

Land Acknowledgement

Chalice Lighting

Laughter fills the air
When we all gather to share and compare all our joys
And jokes in North air
Birds whistle about as the young ones stare
With wonder at the beauty all around us
And we will rejoice as we look to the future
Listening to the children
Who come with wisdom we have all forgotten
And have a deep need to be reminded of and relearn.
People need learning of new things and reminders of truth.

***Covenant** by James Vila Blake

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

***Hymn No. 354** *We Laugh, We Cry* (verses 1, 3, and 4)
Jenn Wisegarver, vocals; Gregory Shifrin, piano

We laugh, we cry, we live, we die; we dance, we sing our song. We need to feel there's something here to which we can belong. We need to feel the freedom just to have some time alone. But most of all we need close friends we can call our very own. And we believe in life, and in the strength of love; and we have found a need to be together.

We have our hearts to give, we have our thoughts to receive; and we believe that sharing is an answer.

Our lives are full of wonder and our time is very brief. The death of one among us fills us all with pain and grief. But as we live, so shall we die, and when our lives are done the memories we shared with friends, they will linger on and on. And we believe in life, and in the strength of love; and we have found a place to be together. We have the right to grow, we have the gift to believe that peace within our living is an answer.

We seek elusive answers to the questions of this life. We seek to put an end to all the waste of human strife. We search for truth, equality, and blessed peace of mind. And then, we come together here, to make sense of what we find. And we believe in life, and in the strength of love, and we have found a joy being together. And in our search for peace, maybe we'll finally see: even to question, truly is an answer.

Time for All Ages

Jokes

Enzo Wallin, Griffin & Reed Larson-Erf

*Hymn No. 585

This Little Light of Mine (verse 1)

Everyone

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Joys and Sorrows

Prayer

Rev. Eileen Wiviott

*Sung Response

There is More Joy Somewhere

Jenn Wisegarver, vocals; Gregory Shifrin, piano

There is more joy somewhere.
There is more joy somewhere.
I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it.
There is more joy somewhere.

Offering

*Today's offering will be shared with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, whose mission is to **advance human rights and social justice around the world**, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.*

Offertory Music

Humoresque by Rodion Shchedrin

Gregory Shifrin, piano

Madlibs

led by Rev. Eileen Wiviott

Anthem *Joyful, Joyful* by Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. By Mervyn Warren
Performed by Aimee K. Bryant, Artist in Residence at First Universalist Church of Minneapolis

Reflections on Laughter Ally Hunter & Carla Williams

Reading *How Prayer Works* by Kaveh Akbar, Iranian-American poet & scholar

Reflection Rev. Eileen Wiviott

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish the chalice, with these jokes.

Hymn Madlib inspired by Hymn No. 346 *Come Sing a Song With Me*

Come, [verb] a [noun] with me, come, [verb] a [noun] with me,
come, [verb] a [noun] with me, that I might [verb] your [noun].

(Chorus) And I'll bring you [noun] when [repeat noun] is hard to find,
and I'll bring a [noun] of [noun] and a [noun] in the wintertime.

Come, [verb] a [noun] with me, come, [verb] a [noun] with me,
come, [verb] a [noun] with me, that I might [verb] your [noun].

(Chorus)

Come, [verb] a [noun] with me, come, [verb] a [noun] with me,
come, [verb] a [noun] with me, that I might [verb] your [noun].

(Chorus)

Benediction Rev. Eileen Wiviott

Tonight's worship leaders: Rev. Eileen Wiviott, *Senior Minister*; Rev. Susan Frances, *Assistant Minister for Congregational Life*; Kathy Underwood, *Director of Lifespan Faith Formation*; Carla Williams, Ally Hunter, Enzo Wallin, Griffin and Reed Larson-Erf, *Worship Associates*; Gregory Shifrin, *piano*; Adam Gough, *Congregational Life Assistant & A/V Tech*.

* Please rise in body or spirit. We invite you to sing along.