

Deepening Gratitude

Sunday, July 12, 2026 - 10:30 am
Sanctuary & YouTube Livestream

Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Evanston's Sunday Service

Ring the Chime

Welcome and Announcements

Ally Hunter, Worship Associate

Introit

Little Prelude in C minor; J.S.Bach
Gregory Shifrin, piano

Land Acknowledgement

Ally Hunter

We name these realities with honor for all the ancestors, respect for our descendants,
and gratitude for the land we use as sacred space.

Chalice Lighting

Carla Williams and Cheryl Mounts brought flowers in memory of Carla's mom, Jean Williams. Dana Deane joins them in lighting the chalice.

***Covenant**

by James Vila Blake

Rev. Elizabeth Harding

Love is the spirit of this congregation,
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.

***Greeting in Gratitude**

***Hymn No. 349**

We Gather Together

Words: Dorothy Caiger Senghas and Robert Senghas;
Music: Adrian Valerius, arr. By Edward Kremser

Congregation; Gregory Shifrin, piano

We gather together in joyful thanksgiving,
acclaiming creation, whose bounty we share;
both sorrow and gladness we find now in our living,
we sing a hymn of praise to the life that we bear.

We gather together to join in the journey,
confirming, committing our passage to be
a true affirmation, in joy and tribulation,
when bound to human care and hope — then we are free.

Time for All Ages

Gratitude is My Superpower by Alicia Ortego

Kathy Underwood

Joys and Sorrows

Rev. Elizabeth Harding

For these joys we give our thanks, for these sorrows we give our love.

Prayer

Sung Response No. 413

Go Now in Peace

Congregation; Gregory Shifrin, piano

Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the love of God* surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

*Spirit of Love

Offertory

Ally Hunter

Today's offering will be shared with Zacharias Center, which works to mobilize the community toward ending systemic sexual violence while amplifying the voice of survivors through trauma-informed care, advocacy, and prevention education.

Offertory Music

July (Song of the Reaper) from "The Seasons" by P. Tchaikovsky
Gregory Shifrin, piano

Ritual of Care for the Abortion Access Team

Rev. Elizabeth Harding

May your generosity be a source of strength and hope.

Reading

Rev. Elizabeth Harding

Anthem

Summer's Eve, Edvard Grieg
Gregory Shifrin, piano

Sermon

Rev. Elizabeth Harding

Extinguishing the Chalice by The Rev. Elizabeth Selle Jones

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,
the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

***Hymn No. 355**

We Lift Our Hearts in Thanks

Words: Percival Chubb; Music: *Harmoniae Hymnorum Scholae Gorlicensis*
Congregation; Gregory Shifrin, piano

We lift our hearts in thanks today for all the gifts of life;
and, first, for peace that turns away the enmities of strife.

And, next, the beauty of the earth, its flowers and lovely things,
the spring's great miracle of birth, with sound of songs and wings.

Then, harvests of its teeming soil in orchard, croft, and field;
but, more, the service and the toil of those who helped them yield.

And, most, the gifts of hope and love, of wisdom, truth, and right,
the gifts that shine like stars above to chart the world by night.

Benediction

Rev. Elizabeth Harding

Today's worship leaders: Rev. Elizabeth Harding, *UUCE Affiliated Community Minister*;
Ally Hunter, *Worship Associate*; Kathy Underwood, *Director of Lifespan Faith Formation*;
Gregory Shifrin, *Piano*; Adam Gough, *A/V Technician*.

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

Please join us in the back of the sanctuary after today's worship service for Kinship Time.