

Living Our Principles with HOPE

Date: Sunday, June 29, 2008

1. Prelude

Who Will Love Me As I Am?

Lyrics by Bill Russell, Music by Henry Kreiger

Catherine Silverglen & Lyla Miklos

LYLA: Like a fish plucked from the ocean
Tossed into a foreign stream
Always knew that I was different
Often fled into a dream
I ignored the raging currents
Right against the tide I swam
But I floated with the question
Who will love me as I am?

CATHERINE: Like an odd exotic creature
On display inside a zoo
Hearing children asking questions
Makes me ask some questions too
Could we bend the laws of nature?
Could a lion love a lamb?
Who could see beyond this surface?
Who will love me as I am?

CATHERINE & LYLA: Who will ever call to say I love you?
Send me flowers or a telegram?
Who could proudly stand beside me?
Who will love me as I am?

CATHERINE: Like a clown whose tears cause laughter
Trapped inside the center ring

LYLA: Even seeing smiling faces
I am lonely pondering

CATHERINE & LYLA: Who would want to join this madness?
Who would change my monogram?
Who will be part of my circus?
Who will love me as I am?
Who will ever call to say I love you?
Send me flowers or a telegram?
Who could proudly stand beside me?
Who will love me as I am?
Who could proudly stand beside me?
Who will love me as I am?

2. Words of Welcome and Introduction

LYLA: Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton.

My name is Lyla Miklos and I will be your service leader this morning. I am a member of this congregation and am also your Co-Chair along with Ed Canning of our Church Services committee. Monica Bennett and Jennifer Kaye who are serving as your House Managers today also sit on this committee.

Long time members may notice that there are some changes to our usual order of service today. Please know that our committee is responding to dialogue that came out of a Worship Workshop earlier this year and will test pilot some of the ideas offered by our members at select services during the summer and fall. We hope all of you will give our committee constructive feedback on how you feel these changes contribute to your overall worship experience.

Our service this Sunday is entitled "Living Our Principles with HOPE". Our speaker today is Marcus Logan. Marcus is the Executive Director of HOPE – Halton's Organization for Pride and Education.

We are blessed in this congregation with wonderful music and today is no exception. Our Music Ministry today will be provided by Rachel Derry (Our Music Director), Beverly Horton, Catherine Silverglen, and Mark Zenchuck.

If you are moved by something you hear or witness during this service please show your appreciation or empathy in a manner that is respectful but also true and honest to you. There is only one portion of the service that we kindly ask for formal silence and for you to hold your applause and it is during the Meditation in Words, Silence and Music. This significant part of our service is for quiet internal reflection. If you have a Joy or Concern you would like to be read during today's service please make sure to write it in our Joys and Concerns book, if you haven't done so already, before our Musical Meditation ends. The Joys and Concerns book can be found at the table against the wall to my right next to the doors of the Sanctuary.

If you would like to receive a tax receipt for any financial contributions you make during our Offertory please be sure to write your name on one of the small plain brown envelopes that will contain your contribution. They can be found on top of our bookcase where our hymnals are kept and also in the pew containers found throughout the church.

Please note that this service is also broadcast into the lobby where there are comfortable chairs where you or a small child may feel more comfortable, or if you need to leave the sanctuary to use your cell phone.

Whoever you are, whomever you love, wherever you are on your journey of faith, today you are the people of this church. You are all welcome in this house of worship and into our liberal religious community.

3. Chalice Lighting – Reading #448

LYLA: The flaming chalice is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Unitarian Universalist faith. The image is on the cover of our hymnals and Orders of Service and it hangs high on the wall behind me in this sanctuary.

The flaming chalice became a symbol of our faith during World War II. At that time a group of Unitarians, under the leadership of Rev. Charles Joy, came together to form the Unitarian Service Committee. Their goal - to protect and rescue people from the persecution of the Nazis.

The committee needed a powerful symbol to help identify its members so language would not be a barrier to those seeking assistance or offering it. Rev. Joy asked Hans Deutsch, a famed cartoonist who had escaped from the Nazis, for help.

Deutsch borrowed a symbol from his native Czechoslovakia, a chalice with a flame, and adapted it into the official symbol of the Unitarian Service Committee. By the 1970's it became a symbol adopted and recognized by Unitarian Universalists worldwide.

I would like to ask Monica Bennett to light our chalice.

[Monica lights the chalice.]

As Monica lights our chalice please join me in the unison Chalice Lighting reading #448 by Christine Robinson, which can be found in your gray hymnal.

We gather this hour as people of faith

With joys and sorrows, gifts and needs.

We light this beacon of hope,

Sign of our quest

For truth and meaning.

In celebration of the life we share together.

4. Invocation – From Harvey Milk

LYLA: Our Invocation today comes from a speech given by Harvey Milk. Harvey Milk was the first openly gay city supervisor of San Francisco, California and according to Time magazine was "the first openly gay man elected to any substantial political office in the history of the planet". Tragically, he was assassinated in 1978.

Somewhere in Des Moines or San Antonio there is a young gay person who all the sudden realizes that he or she is gay; knows that if their parents find out they will be tossed out of the house, their classmates will taunt the child, and the Anita Bryant's and John Briggs' are doing

their part on TV. And that child has several options: staying in the closet, and suicide. And then one day that child might open the paper that says "Homosexual elected in San Francisco" and there are two new options: the option is to go to California, or stay in San Antonio and fight. Two days after I was elected I got a phone call and the voice was quite young. It was from Altoona, Pennsylvania. And the person said "Thanks". And you've got to elect gay people, so that thousand upon thousands like that child know that there is hope for a better world; there is hope for a better tomorrow. Without hope, not only gays, but those who are blacks, the Asians, the disabled, the seniors, the us's: without hope the us's give up. I know that you can't live on hope alone, but without it, life is not worth living. And you, and you, and you, and you have got to give them hope.

5. Musical Invocation

Let us continue our worship together we listen to our musical invocation.

Don't Give Up

**Music and Lyrics by Peter Gabriel
Beverly Horton & Rachel Derry**

BEVERLY: In this proud land we grew up strong
we were wanted all along
I was taught to fight, taught to win
I never thought I could fail

No fight left or so it seems
I am someone whose dreams have all deserted
I've changed my face, I've changed my name
but no one wants you when you lose

RACHEL: don't give up
you still have friends
don't give up
you're not beaten yet
don't give up
I know you can make it good

BEVERLY: though I saw it all around
never thought I could be affected
thought that we'd be the last to go
it is so strange the way things turn

drove the night toward my home
the place that I was born, on the lakeside
as daylight broke, I saw the earth
the trees had burned down to the ground

RACHEL: don't give up
you still have us

don't give up
we don't need much of anything
don't give up
'cause somewhere there's a place
where we belong

rest your head
you worry too much
it's going to be alright
when times get rough
you can fall back on us
don't give up
please don't give up

BEVERLY: 'got to walk out of here
I can't take anymore
going to stand on that bridge
keep my eyes down below
whatever may come
and whatever may go
that river's flowing
that river's flowing

moved on to another town
tried hard to settle down
for every job, so many men
so many men no-one needs

RACHEL: don't give up
'cause you have friends
don't give up
you're not the only one
don't give up
no reason to be ashamed
don't give up
you still have us
don't give up now
we're proud of who you are
don't give up
you know it's never been easy
don't give up
'cause I believe there's the a place
there's a place where we belong

6. Unison or Responsive Reading – Reading #594

#594 – Principles and Purposes for All of Us

Please join me in the responsive reading, #594, which can be found in your gray hymnal. I will read the text in regular type and you will respond with the text in italics.

LYLA: We affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

CONGREGATION: We believe that each and every person is important.

LYLA: We affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

CONGREGATION: We believe that all people should be treated fairly.

LYLA: We affirm and promote acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth.

CONGREGATION: We believe that our churches are places where all people are accepted, and where we keep learning together.

LYLA: We affirm and promote a free and responsible for truth and meaning.

CONGREGATION: We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

LYLA: We affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process.

CONGREGATION: We believe that all people should have a voice and a vote about the things which concern them.

LYLA: We affirm and promote the goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

CONGREGATION: We believe that we should work for a peaceful, fair, and free world.

7. Hymn #346 - Come, Sing a Song with Me

LYLA: Please stand if you are able and let us join together in worship by singing hymn #346 from your gray hymnal entitled Come, Sing a Song With Me.

Come Sing A Song With Me Words and Music by Carolyn McDade

Come, sing a song with me,
come, sing a song with me,
come, sing a song with me,
that I might know your mind

(Chorus)

And I'll bring you hope
when hope is hard to find
and I'll bring a song of love
and a rose in the wintertime

Come, dream a dream with me,
come, dream a dream with me,
come, dream a dream with me,
that I might know your mind

(Chorus)

Come, walk in the rain with me,
come, walk in the rain with me,
come, walk in the rain with me,
that I might know your mind

(Chorus)

Come share a rose with me,
come share a rose with me,
come share a rose with me,
that I might know your mind

(Chorus)

8. Mediation

LYLA: This is our time as a church community to come together to share the joys and concerns of our lives—to listen, to pray, to meditate, or focus our thoughts on the ways we may care for one another. After the meditation in words, we will join together in silence and, after the silence, during the musical meditation, you are invited to come forward, and light a candle.

If you feel comfortable, please write your joy and concern and your full name in the book, so that we may share it with the rest of the congregation and also so our Pastoral Care Committee may follow up with a caring card or letter.

9. Meditation in Words – Gay Foster Mom by Rosie O'Donnell

LYLA: Our meditative reading comes from Rosie O'Donnell. It is entitled *Gay Foster Mom*.

IN 1998
I SPENT THE SUMMER IN MIAMI
RELAXING AFTER
WHAT SOME WOULD CALL
A BREAKDOWN
PANICKED & DESPERATE - SPIRITUALLY SEARCHING
THE DARKNESS HAD RETURNED

DON'T WATCH THE NEWS
IF YOU ARE DEPRESSED

IN A TINY ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT
IN LITTLE HAVANA
A FIVE YEAR OLD GIRL WAS BRUTALLY RAPED
BY A FOURTEEN YEAR OLD "FRIEND OF THE FAMILY"
THE CHILD'S MOTHER SLEPT THROUGH THE WHOLE INCIDENT
IN THE NEXT ROOM - SIX FEET AWAY
THE BABY HAD BEEN BEATEN
HER TEETH BROKEN - HER BODY RIPPED

THE REPORTER DID NOT GIVE THE CHILDS NAME
DID NOT SHOW HER FACE
YET SHE HAUNTED ME

I THOUGHT OF HER DAILY
KNOWING THERE WAS A REASON
SHE RESONATED WITHIN
ONE I COULD NOT YET SEE

A MONTH LATER
MY TWO YEAR OLD DAUGHTER GOT SICK
I CALLED A DOCTOR - WHO CAME TO THE HOUSE
HE WAS KIND AND CHATTY
FULL OF BAD JOKES
HE TOLD ME HE WORKED OUT OF CHILDRENS HOSPITAL
WHERE - I REMEMBERED
THIS YOUNG GIRL WAS BEING TREATED

I ASKED IF HE KNEW OF HER
HE SAID HE DID - SHE WAS IN BAD SHAPE
I ASKED HIM IF I COULD VISIT HER
HE WASN'T SURE, BUT HE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE IT

HE DID

I WAS ALLOWED TO MEET HER
TWO WEEKS LATER
AT THE GLADSTONE CENTER
A HOME FOR SEXUALLY ABUSED GIRLS
I AGREED TO VISIT THE GIRLS AS A GROUP
WITHOUT SHOWING ANY SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS ONE CHILD
I STILL DID NOT KNOW HER NAME

THE NIGHT BEFORE MY VISIT
I SAW THE HANDCUFFED MOTHER ON TV

BEING LED INTO COURT
HEAVY - ANGRY - DETACHED AND SCARY
THE NEWS ANCHOR SAID SHE WAS NOT COOPERATING WITH THE POLICE
I HATED HER

THE MORNING ARRIVED
I FELT SICK
I HAD BEEN TO PLACES LIKE GLADSTONE BEFORE
THIS TIME FELT DIFFERENT

THE GLADSTONE CENTER IS DIFFICULT TO FIND
IT IS COMPLETELY HIDDEN BEHIND A CHURCH
OFF A MAIN ROAD
WITH ONLY A SMALL WOODEN SIGN WHISPERING THE WAY
I WALKED DOWN THE PEBBLE FILLED DRIVEWAY
TOWARD THE ONE STORY CEMENT BLOCK BUILDING
TINY COLORED WILD FLOWERS FOUGHT THEIR WAY
THRU THE GRAY GREEN TANGLE OF WEEDS
A BURST OF BLUE - THE HUE OF HOPE

I INTRODUCED MYSELF TO THE STAFF
AWKWARDLY
I WANTED TO THANK THEM
BUT DID NOT

I WAS BRIEFED
THEN ESCORTED TO THE THERAPY ROOM
TWENTY GIRLS - AGED 5 TO 17
WERE SITTING IN A CIRCLE

TRYING TO CONJURE UPON THEIR FACE
THE EMOTION WRITTEN ON THE CARD
IN THE THERAPISTS HAND
HAPPY - CONCERNED - SHY - SAD - ANGRY

THERAPISTS DETERMINED TO RECONNECT THE CUT WIRES
INSIDE THE HEARTS AND HEADS OF THESE KIDS
TO PULL THEM BACK FROM THE ABYSS

I WAS INTRODUCED
SOME GIRLS WERE EXCITED TO SEE ME
OTHERS TOTALLY DISINTERESTED
THEY ALL HAD QUESTIONS

"YOU IN THE FLINTSTONE MOVIE?"
"DID YOU COME IN A LIMO?"
"YOU LIVE IN A MANSION?"
"WHY YOU HERE SEEING US ANYWAY?"

I TOOK A BREATH
I TOLD THEM I WAS THERE BECAUSE I WAS ONE OF THEM
BECAUSE I WANTED THEM TO KNOW THEY HAD VALUE
THAT THERE WERE MANY ADULTS LIKE ME
WHO ONCE WERE KIDS LIKE THEM

I TOLD THEM TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES
TO KNOW THERE WERE MORE GOOD PEOPLE THAN BAD
THAT THERE WERE GROWN UPS
WILLING TO FIGHT FOR THEM
TO PROTECT THEM - TO LOVE THEM
I WAITED FOR A RESPONSE.....

THEY ASKED IF I KNEW RICKY MARTIN

DURING THE Q AND A I SPOTTED HER
THE GIRL FROM THE NEWS STORY
NO ONE POINTED HER OUT - I JUST KNEW
SHE WAS HARD TO MISS
LANKY - BEAUTIFUL AND OBVIOUSLY SUFFERING
WITH A ROUND FACE - BROWN HAIR AND HUGE EYES
SHE BOUNCED IN AND OUT OF THE ROOM
ON AND OFF OF CHAIRS AND LAPS
SHE WAS MANIC BUSY

SHE PAID NO ATTENTION TO ME
FOR MOST OF MY STAY
SHE WAS OUT OF THE ROOM

MY VISIT WAS WINDING DOWN
I TOOK A POLAROID WITH EACH GIRL
AND GAVE EACH A BEANIE BABY

AS I STARTED TO LEAVE
SHE WALKED BACK IN THE ROOM
THE STUFFED ANIMALS CAUGHT HER EYE
EVERY KID HAD ONE
SHE ASKED - IN SPANISH - IF THERE WAS ONE FOR HER
THERE WAS
SHE CHOSE ONE - CUDDLED IT - AND LOOKED UP AT ME
AFTER A MOMENT - ASKED IF I WANTED TO SEE HER ROOM
I GLANCED AT THE THERAPIST
WAITING FOR APPROVAL
SHE NODDED

THE BABY/CHILD PUT HER TINY HAND IN MINE
AND LED ME DOWN THE HALL

THE LAST ROOM WAS HERS
OLD WOOD BUNK BEDS - A SMALL DRESSER AND A DESK

SHE PUT THE BEANIE BABY I GAVE HER
BESIDE TWO OF HER OWN
HER DOCTOR GAVE HER THOSE - SHE TOLD ME PROUDLY

THE ONE WHO STICHED HER UP - I THOUGHT

ONE BEANIE BABY WAS A DOG
THE OTHER TWO BEARS WITH CLOSED EYES AND FOLDED PAWS
SHE TOLD ME THE BEARS MOMMY WAS DEAD
SO THE BEAR WAS VERY SAD
YES - I TOLD HER - THE BEAR MUST BE SAD
SHE GAVE A NON CHALANT NOD

I GAVE HER THE EXTRA BEANIE BABIES

WHEN WE WERE LEAVING
I ASKED IF I COULD TAKE A PICTURE OF US
FOR ME TO KEEP
SHE SAID YES AND WE POSED TOGETHER

SHE STARTED TO WALK AWAY
I DID NOT WANT HER TO GO
I SAID IN BAD HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH
"I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU."

SHE LOOKED CONFUSED
HOLDING THE BEANIE BABIES UP FOR ME TO SEE -
TO REMIND ME - I HAD ALREADY GIVEN HER SOMETHING

I REACHED INTO MY POCKET
AND HANDED HER A SMALL WHITE STONE
THE KIND YOU GET AT NATURE STORES
POLISHED AND INSCRIBED
ON THIS ONE
ONE WORD - LOVE

("QUANDO TU MIRA ES, ENTIENDES TE QUIERRO")
WHEN YOU SEE THIS - KNOW I LOVE YOU

SHE LOOKED AT THE STONE - SMILED
HUGGED ME AND WALKED TOWARDS THE DOOR
SHE STOPPED
AND WITH A LONGING BACKWARD GLANCE
ASKED MY NAME
IT HAD BEEN A WHILE SINCE ANYONE ASKED MY NAME

RO - I TOLD HER
SHE NODDED AND POINTED TO HER CHEST
KASSANDRA - SHE SAID
I NODDED
SHE WALKED AWAY

THAT DAY
I FILLED OUT THEIR FORMS
TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT
IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

STARTED THE PROCESS
THAT SHOULD HAVE BEGUN
LONG AGO

ON THAT DAY
I FORGAVE MYSELF
FOR CRIMES THAT WERE NEVER MY OWN
AND VOWED TO SAVE
AS MANY AS I COULD
AND IN DOING DO
SAVED MYSELF

GAY FOSTER PARENT
ME

10. **Meditation in Silence**

(Wait a minute)

LYLA: Peace and hope be with you.

11. **Meditation in Music**

Tears of Hercules

Music and Lyrics by Jordan Miccio

Mark Zenchuk

MARK: And so it goes, history shows, deserts must expand
And the camels sail like wooden ships, like women down the strand
There's sand on second avenue and the wind blows like a train
Taxis line up like a string of pearls, around the block again

I remembered everything and every window pane
Every word came back to me, and I was superman

But then I saw your face across the street, through the tears of Hercules

There's a bus that leaves at 8:15 and another one at ten
Should I climb aboard, risk everything, and ride it to the end?
Watch the hills like roller coasters up against the sky
Wish that you were here by me, so close that I could die

You said love wrecks everything and none of us survive
But I got over you tonight inside this empty dive
Till I saw your face across the street, through the tears of Hercules

I remembered everything and every window pane
Every word came back to me, and I was superman
Till I saw your face, across the street, through the tears of Hercules

12. Joys and Concerns

LYLA: We have a few joys and concerns to share today.

(Read Joys and Concerns)

In the spirit of community we share strength and find common purpose. At this time, we turn our minds towards one another, seeking to bring into our circle of concern all who ask for our love and support.

13. One Last Candle

LYLA: I light one last candle for all those joys and sorrows, which remain, in our hearts until the time comes to speak them aloud. Whatever our level of sharing, may this community be a blessing and a support to all of us.

[Light one more candle.]

14. Unison Words of Support

LYLA: Please join me in the unison words of support, which are printed in your Order of Service.

Let us reach out in thought and deed to all who are in need. May we open our hearts to the suffering and the celebrations of others, making a place for each of us in our human condition.

15. Hymn #1060 - As We Sing Of Hope and Joy

LYLA: Please stand if you are able and let us join together in singing our second hymn, #1060 from your aqua coloured hymnal entitled As We Sing of Hope and Joy.

As We Sing of Hope and Joy

Words and Music by Elizabeth Alexander

As we sing of hope and joy today,
Some know only anguish and despair.
How can we lift our voices in this way
while some have pain and misery to spare?

If a crumbling world we would renew,
We must sing no ordinary song,
Pebbles from a noisy gong will never do;
In every breath compassion must be long

Let this song our greatest hopes contain:
Laughter of a well fed child its tune,
Rhythms over every heartbeat its refrain,
Its harmony from peaceful cities hewn

Song of joy while hammering each nail.
Sing of hope while pulling every weed
So shall we sing together and prevail;
May every Alleluia bear a seed

16. Introduction of Speaker

LYLA: I am please to welcome Marcus Logan to our pulpit. Marcus is the Executive Director of the Halton Organization for Pride & Education also know as HOPE. He helped to turn HOPE from a volunteer committee into a fully registered charity. HOPE is dedicated to raising awareness and educating the Halton community around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity using a human rights approach.

And now Marcus Logan with Living Our Principles with HOPE.

17. Sermon

MARCUS: (Sermon Unavailable)

18. Hymn - #118 This Little Light of Mine

LYLA: For our closing hymn we shall sing hymn #118 from your gray hymnal entitled This Little Light of Mine. Please stand if you are able.

This Little Light of Mine

Words and Music: African American Spiritual

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine (x3)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Everywhere I go
I'm gonna let it shine (x3)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Building up a world
I'm gonna let it shine (x3)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

19. Announcements

LYLA: Our liberal religious community's activities extend far beyond our Sunday Morning services. Our written and oral announcements are a way we bring into our formal worship all the other aspects of our life as a church community, and in doing so, we remind ourselves that all that we do is, in fact, a form of worship, of celebrating that which is of worth. I encourage you to take the written announcements home with you as a reminder of our many upcoming events.

[Announcements are read.]

I would now like to ask Barb Jepson to come to our pulpit to make a very special announcement.

BARB: We have with us today two very special guests. They are from the Unitarian Congregation of Sarasota Springs New York and they are here to be married. I'd like to point them out to you and ask them to stand - [male name] and [male name] and with them are two gentleman who are their witnesses, [name] and [name]. Welcome. And may I say Happy Anniversary to you [name] and [name]. [name] and [name] were married in their church in New York ten years ago but now they are having a Canadian Marriage as well today. And you are all invited if the sun does peek out and the rain holds off. We will be having their marriage ceremony out in the back garden after the coffee hour and you are all invited to attend.

LYLA: Thank you Barb and welcome (indicating guests). We are glad to have you here.

If you enjoyed this service or even if you didn't please let us know by filling out the section at the back of your Order of Service and placing it in the comment box located on top of the bookcase where our hymnals are kept. You are the people of this congregation and your feedback and input are very important to everyone who is involved in preparing and presenting our worship services.

19. Offertory

LYLA: This is an active and diverse spiritual community with a lot of exciting, spiritually rewarding and intellectually stimulating things happening throughout the year on just about every day in the calendar. The offering isn't just a way to pay our bills, although it is that. But in the context of worship, it is also a way to express that spirit of liberality or generosity that is at the heart of what liberal religion means. We will now receive the offering to be used to further the ministry of this liberal religious community while we listen to the offertory music.

Our Love Is Here To Stay

Lyrics by George Gershwin, Music by Ira Gershwin

Catherine Silverglen

CATHERINE: This song has a particular special meaning for us, cause my partner Ellen and I are also celebrating 14 years this year. And we came to the Unitarian Church through a wedding. [name] agreed to marry us when no one else in Niagara Falls would, and much like Lyla she pitched the Unitarian Church to us after our wedding, so we found our way here to Hamilton and this one of the songs I sang at our wedding. Its by George and Ira Gershwin. Brothers, not lovers. And I've twisted the words at the end because I can and its Gay Pride Day in Toronto, so here we go.

The more I read the papers.
The less I comprehend.
The world and all its capers.
How it all will end.

Nothing seems to be lasting.
But that isn't our affair.
We have something permanent.
I mean in the way we care.

It's very clear
Our love is here to stay;
Not for a year
But ever and a day.

The radio and the telephone
And the crazy movies that we know
May just be passing fancies,
And in time will go!

But, oh my dear,
Our love is here to stay.
Together we're
Going a long, long way

In time the Rockies may crumble,
Gibraltar may tumble,
There're only made of clay,
But our love is here to stay.

(To the love that dare not speak its name)

It's very queer
Our love is here to stay;
Not for a year (its not a phase Mom and Dad)

But ever and a day.

The DVDs and flat screen TVs
And the politicians that we know
May just be passing fancies (and God Help Us)
And in time they will go!

But, oh my dear,
Our love is here to stay.
Together we're
Going a long, long way

In time the hatred will crumble,
Bad policies tumble,
We'll make it come what may,
But our love is here, it's so very clear
That our love is here to stay.

20. Benediction – From Martha McCarthy

LYLA: Our Benediction comes from a Globe and Mail editorial written earlier this month by Martha McCarthy, winner of the Ontario Bar Association 2007 Award of Excellence in Family Law and a campaigner for gay equality rights.

Five years ago today, I put on a white suit and my good luck shoes and went to the office of the Ontario Court of Appeal to pick up a judgment.

The case was Halpern vs. the Attorney-General of Canada. The result: "The Clerk is directed to immediately begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples." Within hours, our clients Michael Leshner and Mike Stark were married in a Toronto courthouse. I could barely stand up during the ceremony; I was so emotional, my co-counsel, Joanna Radbord, had to hold me up.

When we argued the case before the Ontario Court of Appeal, then-chief justice Roy McMurtry interrupted my co-counsel, and said something like, "You are asking us to go further than any other country has gone to date, aren't you?" Joanna stood back from the lectern. She paused, and took a deep breath. I began scribbling answers for her. She didn't need them. The room was still. She simply said, "Yes, Chief Justice. And that's why I'm proud to be a Canadian."

Today, five years later, as the judgment continues to change lives here and internationally, I simply say: Indeed. How proud we all should be that the Canadian vision of equality and freedom has life and meaning. And wings.

21. Chalice Extinguished

LYLA: I would like to ask Jennifer Kaye to extinguish our chalice.

[Jennifer will get the snuffer and extinguish the chalice.]

We lit our chalice today with a sense of purpose and history. We now extinguish the flame in this chalice, but we will all ensure that its warmth and energy will live on and burn brightly in each of us as we leave this sanctuary. May we like our Unitarian forbearers be symbols of HOPE to those in our wider community as we proudly embody our faith's principles throughout our lives everyday.

We will now bring our minds and hearts into focus and reflect on today's words and music while we enjoy our Postlude. Following the Postlude you are invited to join us in the foyer for cold drinks and conversation.

22. Postlude

Yes

By Shekina Glory Ministry, Arr. Terrance Kelly

Rachel Derry, Beverly Horton, Lyla Miklos, Catherine Silverglen, Mark Zenchuk & Congregants

RACHEL: Well you will have to reflect quickly because you are going to have to sing with us. This is a piece we did with Brian Tate when he was here back in the Fall and I thought what better word to go with hope than yes, because it is positive. So you are welcome to join us in singing on just the chorus. Its just one word. You'll hear the chords. It is very easy to follow. Catherine and Beverly will sing the verses and we will lead you in singing yes on the chorus.

CATHERINE: If I told you what I really need
Would your heart and soul say yes?
There is more that I require of thee.
Would your spirit still say yes?

CONGREGATION: So . . .

Yes . . .

Yes . . .

Yes . . .

Yeah! Yeah! Yes!

Yes . . .

Yes . . .

Yes . . .

Yeah! Yeah! Yes!

BEVERLY: If I told you what I really need
Would heart and soul say yes?
There is more that I require of thee.
Would your spirit still say yes?

CONGREGATION: Say . . .

Yes . . .

Yes . . .

Yes . . .

Yeah! Yeah! Yes!

Yes ...

Yes ...

Yes ...

Yeah! Yeah! Yes!

Yes ...

Yes ...

Yes ...

Yeah! Yeah! Yes!

Yes ...

Yes ...

Yes ...

Yeah! Yeah! Yes!

Yes!