

Unitarian Church Service Script

Title: Flower Communion: Lesser Miracles and Greater Miracles – One Unitarian's View of Jesus

Date: Sunday, May 24, 2009

Speaker: Rev. Fred Cappuccino

Service Leaders: Kelly Wolf and Lyla Miklos

Music Ministers: Our Choir, led by Cindy Carey

1. PRE-SERVICE COMMUNION SET-UP

[**NOTE:** As congregants enter they will give the flowers they have brought to the children flower carriers at the door of the church. The children who are part of the procession will wait in the lobby until "Enter Rejoice and Come In" is sung.]

2. BELL

3. GATHERING MUSIC

Come in Peace

(B. Tate)

Our Choir, led by Cindy Carey

*Come in peace,
Come in love,
Come in grace from above.*

*Come in light,
Let it shine,
Come in spirit divine.*

*Come in spirit,
Come in spirit,
Come in spirit!
Divine!*

4. WELCOME

LYLA: Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton.

My name is Lyla Miklos and along with Kelly Wolf we will be your Service Leaders this morning on this Flower Communion Sunday.

Our speaker today is the Reverend Fred Cappuccino. Rev. Cappuccino has been a Unitarian minister for 45 years. Now retired, he and his wife Bonnie are the co-founders and directors of Child Haven International, which cares for over a thousand formerly destitute children in India, Nepal, Tibet, and Bangladesh. Fred and Bonnie jointly received the Order of Canada in 1996 for their humanitarian

work. You will have two opportunities to make contributions towards Child Haven this morning. Rev. Cappuccino has brought several unique items from India to silent auction. They are on display in the lobby and bids will be taken until Noon today. You can also make special donations into our offertory basket by placing your donations into the envelopes found in your printed Orders of Service which say Child Haven.

We are blessed in this congregation with wonderful music and today is no exception. Our Music Ministry today will be provided by Our Choir, led by our Choir Director Cindy Carey with accompaniment provided by our Music Director Rachel Derry.

The Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion service was created by Rev. Norbert Capek, who founded Czechoslovakia's first Unitarian Church. He first presented this service in 1923, to bind people from various religious traditions more closely together. Capek's wife, Maja who was ordained in 1926 brought the Flower Communion to the US in 1940.

The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community, it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Thus this service is a statement of our community. By exchanging flowers, we show our willingness to walk together in our search for truth, disregarding all that might divide us.

Each person takes home a flower brought by someone else - thus symbolizing our shared celebration in community. This communion of sharing is essential to a free people of a free religion.

Now please rise if you are able and join us in welcoming our Children's Flower Communion Processional by singing hymn #361 from your grey hymnal "Enter, Rejoice and Come In".

5. CHILDREN'S FLOWER COMMUNION PROCESSIONAL/CHALICE LIGHTING

[**NOTE:** Fire carrier enters first, followed by the Sound carriers (singing bowl), (drum carrier if there is one) Water carriers (vases with a bit of water in them) and finally Flower carriers (baskets of the congregant's flowers). They will process up the aisle of the church to the front. The Fire Carrier will light the chalice, the sound carriers will place the singing bowl in position, the Water Carriers will place the vases on one of the plinths and finally the Flower Carriers will place the flowers into the vases, assisted by the other children. The children will sit in the front row if they are comfortable sitting there.]

#361 - Enter, Rejoice, and Come In
By Louise Ruspini

*Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day;
Enter, rejoice and come in.*

*Open your ears to the song.
Open your ears to the song.
Today will be a joyful day;
Enter, rejoice and come in.*

*Open your hearts everyone.
Open your hearts everyone.
Today will be a joyful day;
Enter, rejoice and come in.*

*Don't be afraid of some change.
Don't be afraid of some change.
Today will be a joyful day;
Enter, rejoice and come in.*

*Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day;
Enter, rejoice and come in.*

6. Opening Words: By Sheldon W. Bennett

KELLY: Please be seated. Thank you [name of chalice lighter] for lighting our chalice and marking our entry into sacred space this morning.

Everyone, please join us in our opening words, which can be found in your orders of service and note the sections where we need the harmony of your voices.

FRED: We gather this morning in celebration and appreciation. We rejoice in those true treasures and gifts of life that are beyond any price.

KELLY: We rejoice especially in the children of our church, for their music and their words, for their laughter and their song, and for the bright joy of their very creation.

LYLA: We give thanks for those who serve as teachers and leaders. May they be refreshed and renewed in your spirit.

ADULT CONGREGANTS: Help us as parents, as teachers, and as church members to give our children love, encouragement, and guidance that is steadfast, sure,

and true. May we guide them and teach them in the ways of knowledge, justice, and compassion that they may grow in stature and wisdom. May we inspire our children in their hopes and aspirations, and may we listen to them in their fears and concerns. Save us and restore us from those moments when we know that we fail.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN: We resolve to deliver to future generations a world of greater peace, justice, harmony, and beauty. A world that is more full of life.

ALL: We rejoice in our fellowship as a community of faith, which we signify this morning in our gathering of flowers. Keep us steadfast in our covenant that by the testimony of our lives we may declare the saving power of our faith.

7. CHILDREN'S STORY: TBD

KELLY: We now welcome Rev. Cappuccino to share a special story with our children this morning. All children and youth are welcome to sit in the front two rows of the church for this interactive story.

FRED: (TBD)

8. CHILDREN'S FLOWER COMMUNION RECESSIONAL

KELLY: Now please stand if you are able and join us in singing hymn #413 "Go Now In Peace" which can be found in your gray hymnals as we sing our children and youth out of the sanctuary and thank them for their contributions to our Flower Communion service today. They will continue to worship together in our Children's Religious Exploration programme just across the lobby.

We look forward to seeing them again during our fellowship hour.

#413 – Go Now In Peace By Natalie Sleeth

*Go now in peace.
Go now in peace.
May the spirit of (God/Love) surround you
Everywhere, everywhere, you may go*

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

LYLA: Our announcements bring into our formal worship all the other aspects of our life as a church community. We have a few announcements, which you won't find in your Order of Service.

If you have a Joy or a Sorrow you would like shared with the congregation during today's service please write it out and leave it on the table by the east Sanctuary doors before the Musical Meditation ends.

This service is also piped into the lobby where there are comfortable chairs for you and your children if you have to step out of the sanctuary to feel more comfortable, but would still like to hear the service.

After our worship please join our Fellowship in the lobby. If you are a newcomer please visit our newcomers table so you may know us better and take a green mug for your beverage so we may know you better.

If you would like to enjoy an intimate post-service discussion you are welcome to attend the Speakeasy Salon at the back of the church next to the choir loft following our worship. Our speaker, Rev. Cappuccino will be joining the discussion following our service.

[Read announcements.]

Please make a point of reading all the announcements in your order of service following today's service.

10. Offertory

KELLY: We will now prepare to receive our offering while our Choir sings "When You Believe".

Let there be an offering to sustain and strengthen this place, which is sacred, to so many of us, a community of memory and hope, for we are now keepers of the dream.

Your financial contributions make a difference. Thank you for giving as generously as you are able. Please remember if you would like to give an additional donation to Child Haven this morning to place your contribution in the envelopes provided in your orders of service and put them into the baskets that will be passed throughout the sanctuary.

When You Believe

(S. Schwartz)

Our Choir, led by Cindy Carey

*Many night's we've prayed
With no proof anyone could hear
In our hearts a hopeful song
We barely understood,
Now we are not afraid
Although we know there's much to fear
We were moving mountains
long before we knew we could*

There can be miracles
When you believe
Though hope is frail
It's hard to kill
Who knows what miracles
You can achieve
When you believe
Somehow you will
You will when you believe

In this time of fear
When prayer so often proved in vain
Hope seemed like the summer birds
Too swiftly flown away
Yet now I'm standing here
With heart so full I can't explain
Seeking faith and speaking words
I never thought I'd say

There can be miracles
When you believe
All hope is frail
Its hard to kill
Who knows what miracles
You can achieve
When you believe
Somehow you will
You will when you believe

A-shir-ra la-do-nai ki ga-oh ga-oh
A-shir-ra la-do-nai ki ga-oh ga-oh
Mi-cha-mo-cha ba-elim adonai
Mi-ka-mo-cha ne-dar-ba-ko-desh
Na-chi-tah v'-chas-d'-cha am zu ga-al-ta
Na-chi-tah v'-chas-d'-cha am zu ga-al-ta
A-shi-ra, a-shi-ra, A-shi-ra.....

There can be miracles
When you believe
Though hope is frail
Its hard to kill
Who knows what miracles
You can achieve
When you believe
Somehow you will
Now you will
You will when you believe

You will when you believe

11. MEDIATION IN WORDS

LYLA: This is our time as a church community to come together to celebrate and grieve with our fellow congregants, supporting each other through both our struggles and our victories.

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 and take a flower from the front of the church. Kelly and I will be there to assist you in receiving your flowers.

This time in our worship is when we embrace the silence to reflect on the words and music we hear. If you are moved by the music you hear during our mediation your contemplative silence will be the highest compliment you could give our Choir and will be deeply respected. If you would like to show your appreciation for their gifts with applause please wait until the end of our worship service once the postlude has concluded.

Our Meditative Reading comes from Rev. Norbert Capek.

Just before he was put to death in Dachau, a Nazi Concentration Camp in Germany, he wrote this prayer, reflecting on his own life and the state of his spirit:

*It is worthwhile to live
and fight courageously for sacred ideals.
Oh blow ye evil winds into my body's fire;
my soul you'll never unravel.*

*Even though disappointed a thousand times
or fallen in the fight
and everything would worthless seem,
I have lived amidst eternity.*

*Be grateful, my soul,
My life was worth living.
He who was pressed from all sides
but remained victorious in spirit
is welcomed into the choir of heroes.*

*He who overcame the fetters
giving wing to the mind
is entering into the golden age of the victorious.*

12. MEDITATION IN SILENCE

[Wait one minute.]

LYLA: Amen.

13. MEDITATION IN MUSIC

[Lyla and Kelly will move to the front of the stage area to give out flowers to congregants.]

Sakura (Traditional Japanese folk song)
Arranged and translated by Michael Scott
Our Choir, led by Cindy Carey
[Lyrics – TBD]

[Once the music has concluded Kelly and Lyla will return to the podium. Kelly will depart a little earlier than Lyla as she has to speak first.]

14. JOYS AND SORROWS

KELLY: I have some Joys and Sorrows to share with you today.

[Read written joys and sorrows.]

15. ONE LAST FLOWER

[Lyla will place the “Last Flower” in the little vase.]

LYLA: I placed one last flower into this vase. This flower represents the people living all over the world.

Maybe we will never see them face-to-face, or touch their hands. But we can still warm our hands on their hearts, because we know that their hopes are like our hopes, their pain is like our pain, their love like our love.

16. ONE LAST CANDLE

[Kelly will light the “Last Candle”]

KELLY: I lit 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 support to us all.

Please join me in reading our unison words of support, which are printed in your order of service.

ALL: Our path is open to all life – to the 10,000 joys and 10,000 sorrows. We find it difficult but we are not alone. And through the experience of reaching out in

connectedness to others, we heal, are free to love fully, and realize a profound sense of belonging.

17. HYMN OF THE MONTH

LYLA: Now please stand if you are able and join us in singing our Hymn of The Month #1053 in your aqua hymnal "How Could Anyone".

#1053 – How Could Anyone By Libby Roderick

*How could anyone ever tell you
You were anything less than beautiful
How could anyone ever tell you
You were less than whole?*

*How could anyone fail to notice
That your loving is a miracle?
How deeply you're connected to my soul.*

18. SERMON: LESSER MIRACLES AND GREATER MIRACLES - ONE UNITARIAN'S VIEW OF JESUS

FRED: [TBD]

19. CHALICE EXTINGUISHED/CLOSING WORDS

KELLY: I would like to ask Rev. Cappuccino to extinguish our chalice as I share with you our closing words taken from A Hymn of Dedication written by one of our church's members - Valerie Nielsen.

*As co-creators in your plan,
Inspired to live with zeal,
Send us from here to do all we can
To challenge, dare and heal.*

*With gratitude for yesterday,
And hope for tomorrow's schemes,
We consecrate this special day,
The flowering of our dreams.*

20. POSTLUDE

LYLA: Please remain seated and enjoy our Choir's Postlude "O Siem".

[Say this if there are any flowers remaining at the end of the service: If you did not take a flower during our meditation, please take one from the front of the church once our worship service is over.]

And remember that the flowers you take home with you, so lovely today, will fade tomorrow. But the love amongst us brothers and sisters, families and friends, will go on and on.

**O Siem
(S. Aglukark)
Our Choir, led by Cindy Carey**

*O Siem
We are all family
O Siem
We're all the same
O Siem
The fires of freedom
Dance in the burning flame*

*Siem o siyeya
All people richa and poor
Siem o siyeya
Those who do and do not know
Siem o siyeya
Take the hand of one close by
Siem o siyeya
Of those who know because they try
And watch the walls come tumbling down*

*O Siem
We are all family
O Siem
We're all the same
O Siem
The fires of freedom
Dance in the burning flame*

*Siem o siyeya
All people of the world
Siem o siyeya
It's time to make the turn
Siem o siyeya
A chance to share your heart
Siem o siyeya
To make a brand new start
And watch the walls come tumbling down*

O Siem
We are all family
O Siem
We're all the same
O Siem
The fires of freedom
Dance in the burning flame

Fires burn in silence
Hearts in anger bleed
Wheel of change is turning
For the one's who truly need
To see the walls come tumbling down

O Siem
We are all family
O Siem
We're all the same
O Siem
The fires of freedom
Dance in the burning flame

21. FELLOWSHIP HOUR/SPEAKEASY SALON