

**SERVICE LEADER SCRIPT
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAMILTON
SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2010**

SERVICE TITLE: LGBTQ PRIDE SUNDAY: CREATING POSITIVE SPACE

SPEAKERS: Deborah "Debi" Inglehart and Nancy Sullivan

SERVICE LEADER/STORYTELLER: Lyla Miklos

MUSIC: Joanne Dear, Rachel Derry, and Paul Hawkins

1. OVERTURE

At 10:15am the Musicians should finish their rehearsal, the sound tech will start to play music on CD, and the Ushers will open the doors to the Sanctuary so folks can start to seat themselves.

At 10:25am the Service Leader goes into the Foyer and rings the Bell.

2. BELL

LYLA: *(While in the foyer.)* Our Gathering Music will begin in two minutes, please take your seats in the Sanctuary.

(Indicate to the Sound Tech that the service will begin in less than two minutes and that you will need your podium mike turned on so everyone can hear you introduce the Gathering Music. Let the Musicians know that you will be introducing them momentarily.)

3. GATHERING MUSIC

Magic Penny (Malvina Reynolds) Rachel Derry

LYLA: Please quietly take your seats as we enjoy our Gathering Music.

RACHEL: *Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.*

*Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.*

*It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many*

They'll roll all over the floor.

*For love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.*

*Money's dandy and we like to use it,
But love is better if you don't refuse it.
It's a treasure and you'll never lose it
Unless you lock up your door.*

*For love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.*

*So let's go dancing till the break of day,
And if there's a piper, we can pay.
For love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.*

*For love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.*

4. WELCOME AND SINGING BOWL

LYLA: Good Morning!

Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton on our annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride Sunday Service.

Whoever you are, whomever you love, wherever you are on your journey of faith or search for meaning, today you are the people of this congregation, and you are welcome in this house of worship.

My name is Lyla Miklos. I am a member of this church and Co-Chair of your Worship Committee and I will be your service leader this morning.

We will now listen to our singing bowl. I invite you to be comfortable, close your eyes if you wish, and listen to the sound until it disappears.

(play the singing bowl . . . and fade)

5. OPENING WORDS

From Rev. William Sinkford

President of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We know from our own experience the many blessings that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people bring to our communities and congregations. We know from our lived experience in religious community that differences of faith, of race, of gender and of sexual orientation need not divide us, that diversity within the human family can be a blessing and not a curse. Unitarian Universalists affirm that it is the presence of love and commitment that we value. For Unitarian Universalists, it is homophobia that is the sin, not homosexuality.

6. LIGHTING OF SANCTUARY AND CHILDREN'S CHAPEL CHALICES

LYLA: The Unitarian Universalist ritual of lighting our chalice marks our entry into sacred space.

I invite our guest Speakers Debi Inglehart and Nancy Sullivan to come forward. They will light the Sanctuary Chalice.

I also invite [TBD] to come forward. They will light our Children's Chapel Chalice.

(Chalice Lighters light chalices and stay at Chalices until all the Unison Chalice Lighting Words have been read.)

7. UNISON CHALICE LIGHTING WORDS

LYLA: Please join me in reading our Unison Chalice Lighting Words, which can be found in your Order of Service.

May this candle be our light of friendship and love.

Thank you chalice lighters. You may now take your seats.

8. HYMN

#95 – There Is More Love Somewhere [STLT] (African American Hymn)

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

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

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

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

9. STORY FOR ALL AGES

10,000 Dresses

Story by Marcus Ewert, Illustrations by Rex Ray

LYLA: I kindly ask our children and youth to please come and sit on the carpet at the front of the Sanctuary and be comfortable as we listen to our Story for All Ages.

Today's story is called 10,000 Dresses.

Every night Bailey dreamed about dresses.

A long staircase led to a red Valentine castle. On each stair was a brand new dress, just waiting to be tried on. 10,000 dresses in all, and each one different.

The first dress was made of crystals. When Bailey slipped the dress on, the crystals clinked against each other like millions of tiny bells. And when sunlight hit the dress just right rainbows jumped out. With all her heart, Bailey loved the dress made of crystals that flashed rainbows in the sun.

When Bailey woke up, she went to find Mother. Mother was in the kitchen, cutting out coupons.

"Mom, I dreamt about a dress," said Bailey.

"Uh-huh," said her mother.

"A dress made of crystals that flashed rainbows in the sun!"

"Uh-huh."

"And I was wondering if you would buy me a dress like that?"

"Bailey what are you talking about? You're a boy. Boys don't wear dresses!"

"But . . . I don't feel like a boy," Bailey said.

"Well, you are one, Bailey, and that's that! Now go away . . . and don't mention dresses again!"

Bailey went to her room. Now she would never have a dress made of crystals that flashed rainbows in the sun.

That night, Bailey walked right past the crystal dress, and went to the second stair. There was a dress made of lilies and roses! When she slipped it on, she saw the sleeves were made of honeysuckles! Bailey picked a few of the blossoms, to taste the little drops of honey.

With all her heart, bailey loved the dress made of lilies and roses, with honeysuckle sleeves.

Bailey woke up, and went to find Father.

He was in the backyard, pulling up weeds.

"Dad, I dreamt about a dress," Bailey said.

"Uh-huh," said her father.

"A dress made of lilies and roses, with honeysuckle sleeves!"

"Uh-huh."

"And I was wondering if you could grow me a dress like that?"

"Bailey, what are you talking about? You're a boy. Boys don't wear dresses!"

"But . . . I don't feel like a boy," she said.

"Well, you are one, Bailey, and that's that! Now go away and don't mention dresses again!"

Bailey went to her room. Now she would never have a dress made of lilies and roses, with honeysuckle sleeves.

That night, Bailey walked right past the crystal dress, and the dress made of lilies and roses, and went to the third stair. There was a dress made of windows. One window showed the Great Wall of China, and another, the Pyramids.

With all her heart, Bailey loved the dress made of windows, which showed the Great Wall of China and the Pyramids.

Bailey woke up and went to find her brother.

He was playing soccer with some kids.

"I dreamt about a dress," she told him.

"A dress made of windows, which showed the Great Wall of China and the Pyramids!"

"You dream about DRESSES, Bailey? That's gross. You're a boy!"

"But . . ." Bailey said.

"But nothing. Get out of here, before I kick you."

Bailey ran and ran. She ran all the way to the end of the block, until she came to a house with a big blue porch. An older girl was sitting there, with needles and thread and old sheets.

"What are you doing?" Bailey asked.

"Making dresses," said the big girl. "But it's really hard. Mine all come out looking the same!"

"Maybe I can help," said Bailey.

Bailey told Laurel, the big girl, about the dress made out of windows, which showed the Great Wall of China and the Pyramids.

"That's awesome!" said Laurel. "But how do we make a dress out of windows?"

"We'll use old mirrors instead," said Bailey.

Together the girls made two new dresses which were covered with mirrors of all shapes and sizes.

"These dresses don't show us the Great Wall of China or the Pyramids," said Laurel.

"No," said Bailey, "but they do show us OURSELVES."

"You're the coolest girl I've ever met, Bailey!" said Laurel.

"Hey, do you think you can dream up any MORE dresses?"

Bailey grinned.

"I think I can dream up 10,000!"

The End.

10. CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL HYMN

LYLA: Children's Chapel Chalice lighters please come forward and receive your chalice. Children and youth please form a line behind them.

Everyone, please stand as you are able. Congregants sitting in aisle seats please join hands across the aisle and create a bridge for our children to walk under.

Now join me in singing our Children's Recessional Hymn, which can be found in your order of service.

As you go may joy surround you, as you go, go in peace.

Know our love is with you always, as you go, as you go.

Please be seated.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

LYLA: Our announcements bring into our formal worship all the other aspects of our life as a church community.

Our theme this month is our sixth principle – The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. I can think of no better Sunday worship service which truly brings this principal to life.

Our speakers today are Debi Inglehart and Nancy Sullivan. Debi and Nancy are both employees of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and are Co-Founders of Hill Park Secondary School's Positive Space Group.

We are blessed in this congregation with wonderful music and today is no exception. Today's Music Ministry is provided by Joanne Dear, Rachel Derry, and Paul Hawkins

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 underneath the hanging tapestry by the east Sanctuary doors before the Prelude 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.

If you would like a tax receipt for your offertory donations, don't forget to write your name on the brown envelopes, which were handed out by our Ushers and can be found on the hymnal bookshelves.

After our worship please join our Fellowship in the lobby.

We have a few announcements to share with you today.

(Read announcements.)

12. PRELUDE

Beautiful (Linda Perry) Rachel Derry

LYLA: Our Musicians will now share with us our Prelude.

RACHEL: *Everyday is so wonderful, then suddenly, it's hard to breathe
Now and then I get insecure, from all the pain
I'm so ashamed*

*I am beautiful no matter what they say
Words cant bring me down
I am beautiful in every single way
Yes words can't bring me down
So don't you bring me down today*

*To all your friends you're delirious
So consumed in all your doom
Trying hard to fill the emptiness, the pieces gone
Left the puzzle undone, is that the way it is*

*You are beautiful no matter what they say
Words can't bring you down
Cause you are beautiful in every single way
Yes words can't bring you down*

So don't you bring me down today

No matter what we do
No matter what we say
Were the song inside the tune, full of beautiful mistakes
And everywhere we go, the sun will always shine
And tomorrow we might awake on the other side

Cause we are beautiful no matter what they say
Yes words wont bring us down, no
We are beautiful in every single way
Yes words can't bring us down
So don't you bring me down today

13. READING

From Showtune: A Memoir

By Jerry Herman

LYLA: Today's reading is taken from Showtune: A Memoir by Jerry Herman the out gay Broadway Composer behind the musicals Hello Dolly, Mame, and more. This is a story about his show La Cage Aux Folles and its preview run before it opened on Broadway in 1983.

Fortunately for me, the producers of La Cage understood the way we needed to work, and they let us take the show to Boston – where I had an experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

It was the first preview performance, and I was sitting in the theatre waiting for the house to fill up. Producer, Arthur Laurents, and Book Writer, Harvey Fierstein, and I were all huddled together in Row S of the orchestra, clutching each other. It wasn't until this moment when it suddenly hit me that I was in Boston – a blue blooded, conservative, and in some ways prejudiced city – opening a show about two gay guys.

I panicked.

“You know, we are crazy, we are truly out of our minds,” I started babbling to Arthur and Harvey. “What in the world are we doing in the city of Boston with this big musical extravaganza about transvestites? Why aren't we, for heaven's sake, in San Francisco?”

The two of them tried to hush me up, but I was in a state, "You know what we are doing here?" I said to them. "We are committing suicide, that's what we are doing here. When those two men sit down at the that little café table at the edge of the stage and start singing a love song, this audience is going to throw stones! And then they are going to get up and walk right out of the theatre."

Well, the show started with some nice laughs. The audience loved the opening number with all those fabulous costumes, and they screamed when the wigs came off. For the first fifteen minutes, we were safe.

Then the nightclub scene went off and this pretty scene on the beach came on. David Mitchell had designed us a charming café with little tables and chairs and strings of coloured bulbs and, in the background, the twinkling lights of St. Tropez. The two men were sitting at one of these café tables when Gene Barry, who was playing Georges, began to sing the first bars of "Song On The Sand" – a love song to his male lover. I tell you, my heart was in my mouth.

That's when I spotted them, this couple sitting right in front of us, in Row R. they were the most typical Black Bay Bostonians you could imagine: about sixty years old, the lady with a blue rinse in her hair, the gentleman very distinguished in a blue blazer and his old school tie.

They were exactly the kind of people I was worried about. I poked Arthur, and sure enough, he and Harvey had spotted this couple, too. The three of us couldn't tear our eyes away from them.

For the first two minutes of the love song, these two people sat stone-faced. I was dying. Then Gene got to the line: "And I'm young and in love" – which he is singing about another man, you understand. All of a sudden, this very proper older gentleman took his wife's hand, squeezed it, and gave her a smile.

Harvey and Arthur and I looked at each other, and then the three of us started to bawl. It was that kind of moment – maybe the greatest in a lifetime of great show moments. In that instant, I knew in my heart that this show would be accepted anywhere in the world. And we had done it not by being tough and militant, but by being gentle and loving.

14. OFFERTORY WORDS **From Rev. Sean Dennison**

LYLA: Our offering is a reminder of the spirit of generosity that is at the heart of our religious community. In sharing our financial resources we ensure the continued existence of our church. Your financial contributions make a difference. We thank you for giving as generously as you are able.

Please join me in reading together our offertory words, which can be found in your order of service. They come from transgender Unitarian Universalist Minister the Reverend Sean Dennison.

(Give congregants a moment to find their place in order of service.)

(Read reading along with the congregation.)

CONGREGATION: *One doesn't have to be transgender to know how it feels to be crushed into a role or a box that is uncomfortable and painful. One doesn't even have to be struggling with issues of identity to understand how it feels to be in-between. We all experience in-between times. They are places and times in which we get to make new choices about our lives. We can recreate ourselves, renewing our vision and our hope.*

14. OFFERTORY MUSIC

Swimming to the Other Side (Pat Humphries)

Joanne Dear and Rachel Derry

LYLA: We will now prepare to receive our offering while we listen to our Music Ministers.

JOANNE AND RACHEL: *(Refrain) We are living 'neath the great Big Dipper
We are washed by the very same rain
We are swimming in the stream together
Some in power and some in pain
We can worship this ground we walk on
Cherishing the beings that we live beside
Loving spirits will live forever
We're all swimming to the other side*

*I am alone, and I am searching
Hungering for answers in my time
I am balanced at the brink of wisdom
I'm impatient to receive a sign*

*I move forward with my senses open
Imperfection, it be my crime
In humility I will listen
We're all swimming to the other side*

(Refrain)

*On this journey through thoughts and feelings
Binding intuition, my head, my heart
I am gathering the tools together
I'm preparing to do my part
All of those who have come before me
Band together and be my guide
Loving lessons that I will follow
We're all swimming to the other side*

(Refrain)

*When we get there we'll discover
All of the gifts we've been given to share
Have been with us since life's beginning
And we never noticed they were there
We can balance at the brink of wisdom
Never recognizing that we've arrived
Loving spirits will live together
We're all swimming to the other side*

(Refrain)

15. OFFERTORY HYMN OF GRATITUDE
Hymn #402 – From You I Receive [STLT]

LYLA: As our Ushers bring our offering forward to the front of the church and place their baskets at the foot of our dais in front of the pulpit, please join in singing our Offertory Hymn of Gratitude, which can be found in your order of service.

CONGREGATION: From you I receive, to you I give, together we share, and from this we live.

16. JOYS AND SORROWS

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. This time in our worship is when we embrace the silence to reflect on the words and music we hear.

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.

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

(Read written joys and sorrows.)

17. MEDITATION IN WORDS

Mattering by Mark Hicks

LYLA: Our Meditative Reading is the poem Mattering by Mark Hicks.

*My father asked if I am gay
I asked Does it matter?
He said, No not really
I said, Yes.
He said get out of my life.
I guess it mattered.*

*My friend asked why I talk about race so much?
I asked, Does it matter?
He said, No not really
I told him, Yes.
He said, You need to get that chip off your shoulder.
I guess it mattered.*

*My neighbor asked why I put that ramp up to my front door.
I said, Does it matter?
He said, No not really
I told him because it made my life easier.
He said, Is there a way to make it less obvious?
I guess it mattered.*

*A member of my church asked why I like gospel music.
I asked, Does it matter?
She said, No, not really.
I told her that it connects me to my southern, Christian childhood.
She said, I think you're in denial about your oppression.
I guess it mattered.*

*My God asked me, Do you love yourself?
I said, Does it matter?
She said, YES!
I said, How can I love myself?
I am gay, Latino, disabled, and a Christian in a hostile climate.
She said that is the way I made you.
Nothing will ever matter again.*

17. MEDITATION IN SILENCE

LYLA: Now, may we all bring our thoughts or prayers to rest in the welcoming silence.

(Wait one minute.)

LYLA: Peace.

18. MEDITATION IN MUSIC

Now and Forever (R. Marx) Paul Hawkins

PAUL: *Whenever I'm weary from the battles that rage in my head
You make sense of madness when my sanity hangs by a thread
I lose my way but still you seem to understand
Now and forever I will be your man*

*Sometimes I just hold you
Too caught up in me to see
I'm holding a fortune that heaven has given to me
I'll try to show you each and every way I can*

*Now and forever I will be you man
Now I can rest my worries and always be sure
That I won't be alone anymore*

*If I'd only known you were there all the time for me
All this time*

*Until the day the ocean doesn't touch the sand
Now and forever I will be your man
Now and forever I will be your man*

19. ONE LAST CANDLE

(Light the "Last Candle")

LYLA: 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.

20. UNISON WORDS OF SUPPORT From A Streetcar Named Desire By Tennessee Williams

LYLA: Please join me in reading our unison words of support, which are printed in your order of service. They come from Tennessee Williams.

CONGREGATION: What is straight? A line can be straight, or a street, but the human heart, oh, no, it's curved like a road through mountains.

21. HYMN #1053 – How Could Anyone [STJ] By Libby Roderick

LYLA: Please stand if you are able and let us join together in worship by singing hymn number #1053 from your aqua hymnal entitled "How Could Anyone".

CONGREGATION: *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.*

22. SERMON

Creating Positive Space

Debi Inglehart and Nancy Sullivan

23. HYMN

#1014 – Standing On the Side of Love [STJ]

By Jason Shelton

LYLA: Please stand if you are able and let us join together in worship by singing hymn number #1014 from your aqua hymnal entitled “Standing On the Side of Love”.

CONGREGATION: The promise of the Spirit:
faith hope and love abide.
And so every soul
is blessed and made whole;
the truth in our hearts is our guide.

(chorus) We are standing on the side of love:
hands joined together as hearts beat as one.
emboldened by faith, we dare proclaim
we are standing on the side of love.

Sometimes we build a barrier
to keep love tightly bound.
corrupted by fear,
unwilling to hear,
denying the beauty we've found.

(chorus)

A bright new day is dawning
when love will not divide.
reflections of grace
in every embrace,
fulfilling the vision divine.

(chorus)

23. CHALICE EXTINGUISHED/CLOSING WORDS

From Aimée & Jaguar

Screenplay by Max Färberböck and Rona Munro

LYLA: Please be seated.

I kindly ask Debi and Nancy to extinguish our chalice as I share our Closing Words, which come from the film Aimée & Jaguar. Based on the true story of unlikely lesbian lovers who lived in Berlin during World War Two. One, Lilly, is the wife of a Nazi officer, and the other, Felice, is a Jewish journalist and resistance fighter.

At an intimate birthday party with just a few close friends Lilly asks, "What do you want Felice?"

Felice replies, "You. All of you. Everything! But I'd be satisfied with one single moment, so perfect, it would last a lifetime. For example, this one. This one here is great. I don't want forever. I want now. Now! Now! Now! I want loads of 'nows' and I want them till I turn old and grey. And besides, I want more cake."

24. POSTLUDE

Never Turning Back (Pat Humphries) led by Joanne Dear

LYLA: I now ask Joanne Dear to come forward and lead us in our Prelude.

JOANNE: *Gonna keep on walking forward*

Keep on walking forward

Keep on walking forward

Never turning back

Never turning back

Gonna keep on walking proudly

Keep on walking proudly

Keep on walking proudly

Never turning back

Never turning back

Gonna keep on singing loudly

Keep on singing loudly

Keep on singing loudly

Never turning back
Never turning back

Gonna keep on loving boldly
Keep on loving boldly
Keep on loving boldly
Never turning back
Never turning back

Gonna reach across our borders
reach across our borders
reach across our borders
Never turning back
Never turning back

Gonna keep on walking forward
Keep on walking forward
Keep on walking forward
Never turning back
Never turning back

25. LEAVING MUSIC

(While music on CD plays remove and/or return all papers, props, hymnals and any other materials you may have used during the service from the pulpit and dais. Make sure that the joys and sorrows sheets that were read out during the service are returned to the table on the North side of the Sanctuary underneath the hanging tapestry. The Caring Community Committee will follow up with a caring card or letter at a future date for congregants who submitted something to share with the congregation.)

26. FELLOWSHIP HOUR