

**SERVICE LEADER SCRIPT  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAMILTON  
SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2012**

**SERVICE TITLE:** A PRINCIPLED LIFE: PRINCIPLE #6 (The goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.)

**DESCRIPTION:** The Sixth Principle is vast in scope and extravagant in hopefulness. Suddenly, with this Principle, we thrust our relatively small denomination potentially onto the world stage and commit ourselves to a goal that seems virtually impossible to see realized in our lifetimes, or perhaps even in many lifetimes. Can we really say we are committed to creating a world filled with peace, justice, and liberty in the face of war, abuse, terror, and violence?

**SPEAKER:** Rev. Victoria Ingram

**SERVICE LEADER/STORYTELLER:** Lyla Miklos

**MUSICIANS:** Paul Hawkins and Rachel Derry

## **1. OVERTURE**

(This music will start to play at 10:15am, unless musicians are still rehearsing. The Sanctuary doors should also open at this time.)

## **2. BELL**

(Ring the bell in the foyer.)

(Indicate to the Sound Tech that the service will begin and that you will need your podium mike turned on so everyone can hear you introduce the Gathering Music.)

**LYLA:** Good Morning! Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton.

My name is Lyla Miklos and I'm your service leader this morning.

We ask that you turn off any cell phones, pagers, blackberrys, or other electronic devices as they interfere with our sound system and your listening enjoyment during the service.

I now invite our Minister, the Reverend Victoria Ingram, to the pulpit to lead us in our singing together.

### **3. SINGING TOGETHER**

#### **Many Waters (J. Shelton & K. Gibbons)**

**VICTORIA:** Good Morning! Please rise as you're able and let's join our voices together in song. This morning we'll sing Many Waters

**CONGREGATION:** *Many windows, one light  
Many waters, one sea  
All lifted hearts are free*

### **4. WELCOME AND SINGING BOWL**

**LYLA:** Whoever you are, whomever you love, wherever you are on your journey of faith or search for meaning, today you are one of us, and you are welcome in this house of worship.

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

*(play the singing bowl . . . and fade)*

### **5. CALL TO WORSHIP**

**LYLA:** Our Call To Worship Words come from a speech given by Nobel Peace Prize Winner the Archbishop Desmond Tutu's in 1989 to the University of Khartoum in Sudan.

*People of religion have no choice in the matter. Where there is injustice and oppression, where people are treated as if they were less than who they are – those created in the image of God – you have no choice but to oppose, and oppose vehemently and oppose with all the force that you have in your being, that injustice and oppression.*

*We do our religions scant justice, we put our religions into disrepute, if we do not stand up for the truth, if we do not stand up for justice, if we are not the voice of the voiceless ones, if we are not those who stand up for those cannot stand up for themselves.*

### **6. LIGHTING OF THE CHALICES**

**LYLA:** We light our chalices to mark our entry into sacred space. Today's worship service reflects on our Sixth Principle - The goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

I invite Rupa Jani and Jane Toth to come forward to light our Sanctuary and Children's Chalices. As they light our chalices let us reflect on the words of

Unitarian Universalist Minister the Reverend Mark Morrison-Reed. *“It is the church that assures that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community.”*

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

## **7. UNISON CHALICE LIGHTING WORDS**

**LYLA:** Please join in reading our Unison Chalice Lighting Words, found in your Order of Service.

*May this flame be our light of friendship and love.*

Thank you chalice lighters.

## **8. HYMN**

**Hevenu Shalom Aleychem**  
**(We bring peace unto you.)**  
**(Traditional Hebrew)**  
**Hymn #415**

**LYLA:** Please stand as you are able and join together in singing hymn number 415 from your hymnal.

**CONGREGATION:** *Hevenu shalom aleychem*  
*Hevenu shalom aleychem*  
*Hevenu shalom aleychem*  
*Hevenu shalom, shalom, shalom, aleychem*

## **9. STORY FOR ALL AGES**

**Feeling The Love Together by Stevie Wonder from Open My Eyes, Open My Soul: Celebrating Our Common Humanity Edited by Yolanda King and Elodia Tate.**

*(Lyla will sit on the floor on a riser on the right of the chancel near the choir loft or “stage left”. The story time carpet will lay in front of the riser. While she shares the story the projectionist will show pictures that will be seen above her head by the children and the rest of the congregation.)*

**LYLA:** *Children and youth come and sit on the carpet in front of me near the choir loft to share in our Story for All Ages. Today’s story is called Feeling The Love Together.*

### **[Picture 1 – Stevie Wonder]**

This story comes from Stevie Wonder. Stevie is a world-renowned musician, vocalist, and composer. He has used his talents and influence to fight for human rights and social justice. And he has done all of this while overcoming discrimination due to his blindness and racism due to the colour of his skin.

### **[Picture 2 – MLK]**

This story is about a song he wrote in honour of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and the campaign he was a part of to establish a national holiday in the United States to celebrate his birthday. In Canada the only national holidays we have that celebrate birthdays are Victoria Day in May and Canada Day in July.

Here is his story . . .

### **[Picture 3 – Happy Birthday]**

Sometimes I'll write a song for a specific purpose. I wrote "Happy Birthday" because there was a big struggle about whether or not we'd get a national holiday to celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday.

### **[PICTURE 4 – Coretta]**

His wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King was leading the lobbying efforts to petition Congress, and thousands of people were organizing and fighting to make this a reality.

### **[PICTURE 5 – Angry People]**

But for a while it didn't look good. Some people thought of the holiday as just for Black people, and they didn't see why a national holiday should honour one special group.

### **[PICTURE 6 – Greedy Person]**

Some folks thought that adding a new national holiday would be too expensive, that businesses couldn't afford to pay people for a day when they weren't working.

### **[PICTURE 7 – Not a Fan]**

And some people probably didn't like Dr. King's legacy in the first place, though they didn't necessarily come right out and say so.

### **[PICTURE 8 – Stevie Singing]**

So even though there was a tremendous movement pushing for this new holiday, there were plenty of discouraging times. I know I got discouraged, and so did the folks I worked with. So finally, I just said, “Listen, we’re going to get a holiday.” I just felt it in my mind. And the moment I said it, I knew it would be a reality – and I was determined to do whatever I had to do to help make it a reality. So I wrote that song.

### **[PICTURE 9 – Children with Globe]**

I would like to think that what my song did for the movement was to help make it clear why everybody had a stake in Martin Luther King Day – not just Black folks, but everybody who believed in what Dr. King stood for. So here’s some of what I wrote:

### **[PICTURE 10 – I Have A Dream]**

You know it doesn’t make much sense  
There ought to be a law against  
Anyone who takes offense  
At a day in your celebration

### **[PICTURE 11 – Peace Around The World]**

Why has there never been a holiday  
Where peace is celebrated  
All throughout the world

### **[PICTURE 12 – Children Across The Globe]**

The time is overdue  
For people like me and you  
Who know the way to truth  
Is love and unity to all God’s children

### **[PICTURE 13 – Love]**

So let us begin  
We know that love can win  
Let it out don’t hold it in  
Sing it loud as you can

### **[PICTURE 14 – Cake]**

Happy birthday to you  
Happy birthday to you  
Happy Birthday

### **[PICTURE 15 – Unity]**

We know the key to unify all people  
Is in the dream that you had so long ago  
That lives in all of the hearts of people  
That believe in unity  
We'll make the dream become a reality  
I know we will because our hearts tells us so

### **[PICTURE 16 – Happy Birthday]**

After I finished the song I started on a summer tour. From the moment we started singing “Happy Birthday” and talking about the holiday, everyone in the audience was saying things like, “Yes. We’re here. And this is going to happen.”

### **[PICTURE 17 – Stevie Concert]**

And you could feel the energy every time we sang that song, moving between us and the audience.

### **[PICTURE 18 – March]**

And then the audience brought that energy with them out into the lobby, where they signed a petition for the holiday, and then they brought it with them into the street, and into their homes, and to all the other places that they went.

### **[PICTURE 19 – Kids for King]**

Something about that song just tapped into the power of the good, the power of the positive, the power of us all together.

### **[PICTURE 20 – Reagan signs Bill]**

And then we won. Finally, the bill was going to be signed. Just about the same time, we were giving a concert at the Capitol Theatre in Washington, D.C. That was a really magical moment. Everyone in the audience was singing with us, thousands of voices all singing “Happy Birthday” to Dr. King.

## **[PICTURE 21 – Happy People]**

Everyone was overjoyed, because this was a victory in the making for everyone, and the energy just kept getting higher and higher and higher.

## **[PICTURE 22 – Barack and Stevie]**

And to me, that's what it's all about – all of us trying our very best to make a difference, and then feeling the love together.

## **10. CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**LYLA:** Children and youth please line up behind Jane Toth, who will take the Children's Chalice as you leave for class.

Adults on the aisle may form an arch, if you please. Everyone join us in singing our Children's Recessional Hymn, 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.*

## **11. NEWS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

**LYLA:** News of our community is a part of our life as a church family. Please make a point of reading all the announcements in your order of service following worship.

We have these announcements to share, which are not in your Order of Service this morning.

*(Read announcements.)*

Today's Music Ministry is provided by Paul Hawkins and Rachel Derry.

If you have a personal Joy or Sorrow you would like shared with the congregation today, paper and pens are available at the table to my right [indicate with hand gesture]. Please write yours before the Worship in Music ends.

This service is also piped into the lobby if you need to step out of the sanctuary.

If you would like a tax receipt for your offering OR you would like your donation credited toward your financial commitment of record, please write your name and address on the brown envelope given out by the ushers before the service. Envelopes can also be found on top of the hymnal bookshelf.

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.

**12. READING:**

**#577 – It Is Possible To Live In Peace from Mohandas K. Gandhi**

**LYLA:** Today's reading comes from our gray hymnal. It is reading #577 – It Is Possible To Live In Peace from Gandhi. I will read the text in regular font and you will all respond with the text in italics.

If someone with courage and vision can rise to lead in nonviolent action, the winter of despair can, in the twinkling of an eye, be turned into the summer of hope.

**CONGREGATION:** *It is possible to live in peace.*

**LYLA:** Nonviolence is not a garment to put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our being.

**CONGREGATION:** *It is possible to live in peace.*

**LYLA:** Nonviolence, which is a quality of the heart, cannot come by an appeal to the brain. It is a plant of slow growth, growing imperceptibly, but surely.

**CONGREGATION:** *It is possible to live in peace.*

**LYLA:** If a single person achieves the highest kind of love it will be sufficient to neutralize the hate of millions.

**CONGREGATION:** *It is possible to live in peace.*

**LYLA:** If we are to reach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.

**CONGREGATION:** *It is possible to live in peace.*

**LYLA:** The future depends on what we do in the present.

**CONGREGATION:** *It is possible to live in peace.*

### **13. WORSHIP IN MUSIC**

**I Believe/You'll Never Walk Alone**

**A. Stillman, I. Graham, J. Shirl & E. Drake /R. Rodgers & O. Hammerstein II  
Paul Hawkins & Rachel Derry**

**LYLA:** Our Music Ministers will now share with us our Worship in Music.

*(If necessary, cue the musicians to play the Worship In Music.)*

**PAUL & RACHEL:** TBD

### **14. MEDITATION: JOYS & SORROWS**

**VICTORIA:** 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.

Following our meditation words, we join in a time of silence for reflection or prayer. During our musical meditation, you are invited to come forward, and light a candle.

These are the Joys and Sorrows we share today.

*(Read written joys and sorrows.)*

### **15. MEDITATION: WORDS**

**#589 – Peace adapted from The Pupils of Lincoln School**

**VICTORIA:** Our Meditative Reading, entitled Peace, is adapted from words crafted by the pupils of Lincoln School.

*Peace means the beginning of a new world.  
It means that nations are friends;  
It means joy to the world.*

*Peace is quiet calm; it is rest;  
it is silence after a storm.  
It is love and friendship;  
It is the world's dream of dreams.*

*Peace brings comfort and happiness;  
It brings bread to the hungry;  
It brings prosperity to the nations.*

*It means the strong respect the weak,  
The great respect the small,  
The many respect the few.*

*It is like spring after winter.*

*It brings sunshine into the world;  
It is like sweet music after harsh sounds.*

## **16. MEDITATION: SILENCE**

*(You may ring the bell to start and/or end the period of silence. Allow at least one minute for the meditation in silence; two, if possible.)*

## **17. MEDITATION: MUSIC**

*(Rachel will now present the Meditation in Music and congregants will light candles. Congregants then proceed to light candles. If necessary, cue the musicians to play the musical meditation.)*

## **18. MEDITATION: ONE LAST CANDLE**

(Light the "Last Candle")

**LYLA:** We light this 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.

## **19. MEDITATION: UNISON WORDS OF SUPPORT**

**#689 – From Paul Robeson**

**LYLA:** Please join me in reading our unison words of support. They can be found in your grey hymnal. Reading #689. And are projected on the wall.

**CONGREGATION:** Sorrow will one day turn to joy. All that breaks the heart and oppresses the soul will one day give place to peace and understanding and everyone will be free.

## **20. HYMN**

**One More Step**

**(Joyce Poley)**

**Hymn #168**

**LYLA:** Please stand if you are able and join together in singing hymn number 168 from your grey hymnal entitled One More Step.

**CONGREGATION:** One more step,  
we will take one more step,  
'til there is peace for us an everyone,  
we'll take one more step.

One more word,  
We will say one more word,  
'til every word is heard by everyone,  
we'll say one more word.

One more prayer,  
We will say one more word,  
'til every prayer is shared by everyone,  
we'll say one more prayer.

One more song,  
We will sing one more song,  
'til every song is sung by everyone,  
we'll sing one more song.

## **21. SERMON**

**VICTORIA:** TBD

## **22. OFFERING: WORDS**

**#631 – Passover from Congregation Beth El in Sudbury, MA**

**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 are appreciated and make a difference. We thank you for giving as generously as you are able.

Please join me in sharing reading #631 from your gray hymnal entitled Passover. I will start and you will respond with the words in italics. Words are also projected against the wall.

(Give congregants a moment to find their place in the gray hymnal.)

**LYLA:** What sacrifices would we make for freedom today?

**CONGREGATION:** *What would we leave?*

**LYLA:** How far would we go? How deeply would we look within ourselves?

**CONGREGATION:** *Our ancestors had no time to await the rising of the bread.*

**LYLA:** Yet we, who have that time, what do we do to be worthy of our precious inheritance?

**CONGREGATION:** *We were slaves in Egypt . . . but now we are free.*

**LYLA:** How easy it is for us to relive the days of our bondage as we sit in the warmth and comfort of our seder.

**CONGREGATION:** *How much harder to relieve the pain of those who live in the bitterness of slavery today.*

### **23. OFFERING: MUSIC**

**The Water Is Wide/Deep River**

**Scottish Traditional/African American Spiritual**

**Paul Hawkins & Rachel Derry**

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

*(If necessary, cue the musicians to play the offertory music. Let the ushers collect the offering while the music plays.)*

**PAUL & RACHEL:** TBD

*(When the offering is complete, go to the front of the chancel and receive the baskets from the ushers.)*

**VICTORIA:** Your gifts in support of our ministries to one another and to the community are appreciated. Thank you.

### **24. CHALICE EXTINGUISHED/GOING FORTH WORDS:**

**From Judy Chicago**

*(Extinguish chalice.)*

**VICTORIA:** Our going forth words come from Judy Chicago.

*One day, hopefully soon, all that divides us will merge, and compassion will be wedded to power. Softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind, and no person shall be subject to another's will. On that day, all will live in harmony with each other and with the Earth, and everywhere will be called Eden once again. May it be so.*

**25. POSTLUDE**

**Danny Boy**

**Lyrics by Fred Weatherly, Music: Irish Traditional**

**Paul Hawkins & Rachel Derry**

**VICTORIA:** Please remain seated for our Postlude.

*(If necessary, cue the musicians to play the Postlude.)*

**PAUL & RACHEL:** TBD

**26. FELLOWSHIP HOUR**