

**SERVICE LEADER SCRIPT  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAMILTON  
SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2012**

**SERVICE TITLE:** LGBTQ Sunday: Our GSA Journey

**DESCRIPTION:** In honour of LGBTQ Pride Month, student members of Parkside High School's Gay/Straight Alliance Club will share their stories of fighting homophobia, discovering themselves, and finding acceptance.

**SPEAKERS:** Kodi Organ and Breanne Wilde

**SERVICE LEADER:** Lyla Miklos

**STORYTELLER:** Richard Gelder

**MUSICIANS:** Joshua Durand, Heather Janssen, Cynthia Johnman, Maclean Johnman, Clare Miles, and Sela Solomon

**HYMN ACCOMPANIMENT:** Rachel Derry

**PROJECTIONIST:** Ali Steinbergs

**SOUND:** Mary Anne Forbes and Jim Barret

**CHALICE LIGHTERS:** Garet Eastman and Jessica Brennan

**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 at 10:23am.)*

**LYLA:** *(Say while in foyer)* Our service begins in two minutes, please take your seats in the Sanctuary.

*(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.)*

**3. GATHERING MUSIC**

**Matty's Song by Joshua Durand**

**Joshua Durand (vocals)**

**(with vocal samples from Eminem's *It's Your Time*)**

**LYLA:** *(start at 10:25am sharp)* Please take your seats as Joshua Durand shares with us our Gathering Music, Matty's Song.

We kindly ask that you turn off any cell phones, pagers, blackberrys, or other electronic devices at this time as they interfere with your listening enjoyment during the service.

**VOCAL SAMPLE:** *(Let it go. You gotta let it go. Keep living your life cause it's your time, your time, your time, your time.) x2*

**JOSHUA:** im so sick  
yall can call me the illis  
Matty \*MAK\* Kloucek  
that mang is the reliss  
imma dump it out  
cause that's how imma spill this

you inspired me to write  
and show hope to the sickist  
stop being so selfish  
start learnin' the truth  
about how I can achieve  
and spit a rhyme in a booth

so in my prayers  
this will get up to you  
you showed me to believe  
and do what I gotta do  
its time, I remember when

where did I go wrong  
in this life I will believe  
the unbelievable

those are just five of my favorite tracks  
always bumpin pumpin  
from the celly in my slacks  
i dun write this for me  
Mat write this for you  
and to the still suffering addict  
we've walked in your shoes  
its a long walk  
a journey not a destination  
but you can conquer anything  
if you have anticipation.

**VOCAL SAMPLE:** *(Let it go. You gotta let it go. Keep living your life cause it's your time, your time, your time, your time.) x2*

**JOSHUA:** my life's now in focus  
I don't gotta smoke this  
like a lion in a cage  
please don't provoke this

i used to be hopeless  
and super dope sick  
now I'm just sick of dope  
helping the homeless  
because they're

just living on the brink  
one set of clothes  
gotta wash em in the sink  
few more days  
till they really start to stink

tied up with a chain  
looking for the missing link

so keep your eyes open  
you dont wanna blink  
cause life will pass by  
quicker than you think  
i have so much to say  
but not sure how to say it  
i dont know if I'm through it  
but I'm definitely in it  
in it to win it  
i can't afford another slip  
back in last may  
i got smashed with a brick

**VOCAL SAMPLE:** *(Let it go. You gotta let it go. Keep living your life cause it's your time, your time, your time, your time.) x2*

**JOSHUA:** Dear Matty MAK  
Thank you for your guidance  
your showing me the real me  
I'm losing my defiance  
I'm changing everyday  
It's like relearning science  
but ill never know everything  
so lets keep this alliance

i wanna know it all  
but that's just irrational  
so i listen and write  
one day i'll be national

i got my feet planted  
you cant dig me up hoe  
life's a beautiful garden  
even nicer when it snows

so now i plant the seed  
so i can watch it grow  
it takes a lot of work  
but in the end it will show  
and we've been through it all  
and we all know it all  
and like biggie says  
if you dont know now you know

Y'all don't no me  
i ain't the OPP  
but ill be cleaning up the streets like i got ocd.  
cause i was born to be  
the worlds greatest mc  
the drug game was the only thing to phase me

**VOCAL SAMPLE:** *(Let it go. You gotta let it go. Keep living your life cause it's your time, your time, your time, your time.) x2*

#### **4. PRELUDE**

***Pieces*** by Deryck Whibley & Greig Nori  
Maclean Johnman (vocals/guitar)

**LYLA:** *(start at 10:30am sharp)* Thank you Joshua. Please welcome Maclean Johnman. He will present our Prelude, the Sum 41 song *Pieces*.

*(If necessary, cue the musicians.)*

**MACLEAN:** *I tried to be perfect  
But nothing was worth it  
I don't believe it makes me real  
I thought it'd be easy  
But no one believes me  
I meant all the things I said*

*If you believe it's in my soul  
I'd say all the words that I know  
Just to see if it would show  
That I'm trying to let you know  
That I'm better off on my own*

*This place is so empty  
My thoughts are so tempting  
I don't know how it got so bad  
Sometimes it's so crazy  
That nothing can save me  
But it's the only thing that I have  
If you believe it's in my soul  
I'd say all the words that I know  
Just to see if it would show  
That I'm trying to let you know  
That I'm better off on my own  
On my own*

*I tried to be perfect  
It just wasn't worth it  
Nothing could ever be so wrong  
It's hard to believe me  
It never gets easy  
I guess I knew that all along*

*If you believe it's in my soul  
I'd say all the words that I know  
Just to see if it would show  
That I'm trying to let you know  
That I'm better off on my own*

## **5. WELCOME**

### **From My Two Moms by Zach Wahls**

**LYLA:** Thank you Maclean. Good Morning! Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton. My name is Lyla Miklos. I am a proud member of this congregation, of Parkside's GSA Club, and of Hamilton's LGBTQ Community and I am your service leader this morning.

Over my head hanging on the wall you can see the symbol of our Unitarian Universalist faith, the flaming chalice. UU Zach Wahls, who's 2011 impassioned defense of same sex marriage in front of the Iowa House Judiciary Committee became a worldwide viral video sensation, defines our faith this way:

*“The two circles represent duality, the circle of life and the unity of all things - hence "Unitarian". The chalice is burning, providing us with light and guidance along the way. "The way to what?" they'd usually ask. Through life, I suppose. Toward salvation, maybe. That's what the "Universalist", part means. Universal salvation.”*

## **6. SINGING TOGETHER**

### **#100 – I've Got Peace Like A River**

**LYLA:** Please rise as you're able and let's join our voices together in song. This morning we'll sing I've Got Peace Like A River.

**CONGREGATION:** *I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.  
(in my soul)*

*I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.  
(in my soul)*

*I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.  
(in my soul)*

*I've got pain like an arrow,  
I've got pain like an arrow,  
I've got pain like an arrow, in my soul.  
I've got pain like an arrow,  
I've got pain like an arrow,  
I've got pain like an arrow, in my soul.  
(in my soul)*

*I've got tears like the raindrops,  
I've got tears like the raindrops,  
I've got tears like the raindrops, in my soul.  
I've got tears like the raindrops,  
I've got tears like the raindrops,  
I've got tears like the raindrops, in my soul.  
(in my soul)*

*I've got strength like a mountain,  
I've got strength like a mountain,  
I've got strength like a mountain, in my soul.  
I've got strength like a mountain,  
I've got strength like a mountain,  
I've got strength like a mountain, in my soul.  
(in my soul)*

## **7. 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.

Today's worship service participants are made up of members of Parkside High School's Gay/Straight Alliance Club. Please welcome them to our congregation today as they share our words and music with us this morning along with several youth members of our congregation.

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)*

## **8. CALL TO WORSHIP**

**By Rev. Patrick S. Cheng**

**From his 2010 article *Faith, Hope, and Love: Ending LGBTQ Teen Suicide***

**Source:** [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-patrick-s-cheng-phd/faith-hope-and-love-endin\\_b\\_749160.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-patrick-s-cheng-phd/faith-hope-and-love-endin_b_749160.html)

**LYLA:** Kodi Organ, Parkside student and GSA Club Member, will share Our Call To Worship Words.

(Kodi comes forward to the podium.)

**LYLA:** They come from Patrick S. Cheng, out gay man, ordained minister with the Metropolitan Community Churches, and coordinator of Queer Asian Spirit.

**KODI:** I have been simultaneously horrified, saddened, and enraged at the spate of suicides by teenagers and young adults who were bullied for being, or being perceived to be, gay.

As an openly gay minister, theologian, and seminary professor, these suicides have brought back vivid memories of being bullied myself in junior high school.

St. Paul writes in his First Letter to the Corinthians that the great theological virtues are faith, hope, and love. We must give faith to our LGBTQ young people that things will get better, no matter how bleak things may seem right now. We must give them hope that there are others out there who care about them. And we must give them love by speaking out and acting forcefully against LGBTQ violence in all its forms.

*(Kodi returns to her seat.)*

**LYLA:** Thank you Kodi.

## **9. LIGHTING OF THE CHALICES**

**By Iman Daayiee Abdullah**

**From a 2010 interview with Muslim Voices**

**Source:** <http://muslimvoices.org/daayie-abdullah-being-out-muslim/>

**LYLA:** We light our chalices to mark our entry into sacred space.

I invite Breanne Wilde, Parkside student and GSA Club member, to come forward and share our chalice lighting words.

I invite Gareth Eastman, former Parkside student and Co-Founder of its GSA Club, and Jessica Brennan, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Trustee for Dundas, to come forward to light our Sanctuary and Children's Chalices.

*(Breanne, Gareth, and Jessica come forward.)*

**LYLA:** Our chalice lighting words come from Daayiee Abdullah, out gay man, and Muslim Iman.

**BREANNE:** To be gay and Muslim, at times, people will say that it is an oxymoron. But in actuality, it's a formulation that shows the diversity within Islam; that people can be a variety of backgrounds. The Quran says to look to the nature of the world. And from that, you can see the diversity and understand that Allah's understanding of the world and the universe in which he created is full of diversity; but you find the oneness, the tauheed, unification of all, through those various diverse aspects.

*(Breanne, Gareth, and Jessica return to their seats.)*



**LYLA:** Thank you Breanne, Garet, and Jessica.

## **10. HYMN**

### **#118 – This Little Light of Mine**

**LYLA:** Please stand as you are able and join together in singing hymn number #118, This Little Light of Mine, from your grey hymnal.

**CONGREGATION:** *This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*Building up a world,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Building up a world,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Building up a world,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

## **11. STORY FOR ALL AGES**

### **Uncle Bobby's Wedding**

**Written and Illustrated by Sarah S. Brannen**

*(Richard will sit in a chair 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 he shares the story the projectionist will show pictures that will be seen above his head by the children and the rest of the congregation.)*

**LYLA:** Children and youth please come and sit on the carpet in front of Richard Gelder, Co-Staff Advisor for Parkside's GSA Club, near the choir loft. He will share our Story for All Ages this morning.

**RICHARD:** Today's story is called Uncle Bobby's Wedding

### **[Picture 1 – Bobby & Chloe]**

Bobby was Chloe's favourite uncle.  
They went for long walks together.

### **[Picture 2 – Moonlight Boat Ride]**

He took her rowing on the river.

He taught her the names of the stars.

Once they even climbed to the top of a lighthouse.

"Let's live here!" said Chloe.

"I'd like that," said Uncle Bobby.

### **[Picture 3 – Family Picnic]**

One day, Mama had a picnic for the whole family. There were pickles and olives and cucumber sandwiches and pumpkin cookies. Bobby and his friend Jamie bought bottles of fizzy cider.

### **[PICTURE 4 – Sulky Chloe]**

"We're getting married," said Uncle Bobby.

Mama whopped and hugged him. Daddy shook hands with Jamie. Everyone was smiling and talking and crying and laughing. Everyone except Chloe.

### **[PICTURE 5 – Chloe and Mom]**

"Mama," said Chloe, "I don't understand! How can Uncle Bobby get married?"

"Bobby and Jamie love each other," said Mama. "When grown up people love each other that much, they want to be married."

"But," said Chloe, "Bobby is my special Uncle. I don't want him to get married."

"I think you should talk to him," said Mama.

### **[PICTURE 6 – Walk in The Field]**

"Let's go for a walk," said Uncle Bobby. He and Chloe took their favourite path through the field.

“Why do you have to get married?” asked Chloe.

“Jamie and I want to live together and have our own family now,” said Bobby.

“You want your own kids?”

“Only if they are just like you,” said Bobby.

“That’s a pretty good reason,” said Chloe. “But –“

### **[PICTURE 7 – Sitting on a Log]**

“But what?” said Bobby.

“I still don’t think you should get married. You have ME! We can keep having fun together, like always.”

“I promise we’ll keep having fun together,” said Bobby. “You’ll always be my Chloe.”

### **[PICTURE 8 – Ballet Dancing Jamie]**

Bobby and Jamie asked Chloe to go to the ballet with them. Afterward they had ice cream sodas. Jamie imitated the ballet dancers and Chloe laughed so hard, she got soda up her nose.

### **[PICTURE 9 – Sailboat Ride]**

Bobby and Jamie taught Chloe to sail. She fell in the water at the dock and Jamie fished her out.

After they dried her off, Chloe said, “That was the most fun I ever had.”

### **[PICTURE 10 – Roasting Marshmallows]**

At night, Chloe played board games with Bobby and Jamie. They toasted marshmallows in the fireplace.

“I wish both of you were my uncles,” said Chloe.

“You get your wish, sweetheart,” said Bobby.

“When we get married, you’ll have an Uncle Jamie too.”

“You’ll still be my one and only Uncle Bobby, though,” promised Chloe.

### **[PICTURE 11 – Carrot Cake]**

And when we get married,” said Jamie, “would you do us the honour of being our flower girl?”

“What kind of cake are you having?” asked Chloe.

“What kind of cake would you like?” asked Jamie.

“Carrot cake!” said Chloe.

“Carrot cake it is,” said Jamie.

“Okay,” said Chloe. “I’ll be your flower girl.”

### **[PICTURE 12 – Getting Dressed]**

On the day of the wedding, Chloe put on her new dress. Everyone was excited and busy. Uncle Bobby lost the rings. Jamie couldn’t tie his bow tie.

Chloe found the rings in Bobby’s jacket pocket. She helped Jamie with his tie. And she helped Mama put the perfect finishing touches on the wedding cake. “We’re ready!” said Chloe.

### **[PICTURE 13 – The Flower Girl]**

An afternoon breeze cooled the garden. Daisies and buttercups bloomed in the grass and the air smelled like roses. Cousins, grandparents, and friends watched Chloe walk down the path holding her bouquet. Mama sang a wedding song.

### **[PICTURE 14 – Bobby & Jamie Married At Last]**

Bobby and Jamie got married.

### **[PICTURE 15 – Wedding Party]**

“That was the best wedding ever,” said Chloe. “I planned it from the beginning.”

The band started to play. She jumped up and grabbed Uncle Bobby’s and Uncle Jamie’s hands.

### **[PICTURE 16 – Full Moon]**

Everyone danced until the moon rose.

## 12. CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL HYMN

**LYLA:** Thank you Richard. Children and youth please line up behind Tamara, 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.

**CONGREGATION:** *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.*

## 13. 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.)*

Our Speakers today are Kodi Organ and Breanne Wilde. They are both students at Parkside High School in Dundas and members of the School's Gay/Straight Alliance Club.

Today's Music Ministry is provided by Joshua Durand, Heather Janssen, Cynthia Johnman, Maclean Johnman, Clare Miles, and Sela Solomon with our Music Director Rachel Derry providing our hymn accompaniment.

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.

#### **14. READING:**

**By Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum**

**From her 2005 editorial *How Do You Mend a Broken World?***

**Source:** [http://www.thetaskforce.org/press/releases/pr872\\_100405](http://www.thetaskforce.org/press/releases/pr872_100405)

**LYLA:** Breanne Wilde will share our reading this morning.

(Breanne will come forward to the podium.)

**LYLA:** Our Reading comes from Sharon Kleinbaum, out lesbian, and the Rabbi of Beth Simchat Torah.

**BREANNE:** One of our rabbinic legends tells us that the first light God created filled the void so fully that there was no room left over for the rest of creation. So God gathered up the first light and put it away in jars to keep it for another occasion. But this light was so strong that it broke the jars and got away, leaving behind only scattered shards. These broken shards are our world, and our job is to mend it — tikkun olam, they called it, the mending of the world.

How do you mend a broken world?

First, we must believe that change is possible. We must believe that we influence the cosmos, that what we do matters; our lives, our actions, our words, even our thoughts can make a difference; that we are all here — every one of us — for the sake of what we can do together.

This is the tikkun olam, the mending of the world, which we all must do regardless of our religious beliefs or faith practice. As Jewish people, we call the world to account simply through our continued existence. As LGBTQ people, we are no different. Let us all come together to gather up the shards of light that lie around our world and piece together a brighter light to illuminate our way.

*(Breanne returns to her seat.)*

**LYLA:** Thank you Breanne.

#### **15. WORSHIP IN MUSIC**

***When Love is Your War* by Heather Janssen**

**Heather Janssen (vocals/piano)**

**LYLA:** Parkside student Heather Janssen will now share with us our Worship in Music.

This is a song she shared with Parkside at our GSA Assembly in Fall 2011.

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

**HEATHER:** Love has caused me to sin  
Such a broken mess we live  
I dream of your words, they paint me a nightmare  
Oh what, what have you done?  
Love has caused me to sin

Oh what's love when it's your war?  
Oh what are ya fighting for?  
I won't fire the hate  
To throw at your name  
But I won't stand in silence  
Oh what's love when it's your war?

I will never love like you  
Its so wrong, but I promise myself  
Your words will not break through me  
I'm learning that life can be all that you want  
So I'm not looking back  
I will never love like you

Oh what's love when it's your war?  
Oh what are ya fighting for?  
I won't fire the hate  
To throw at your name  
But I won't stand in silence  
Oh what's love when it's your war?

## **16. MEDITATION: JOYS & 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.

Following our meditation in 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.)*

## **17. MEDITATION: WORDS**

**By Rev. Brent Hawkes**

**From his 2011 Homily for Jack Layton's Memorial Service**

**Source:** <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1045969--transcript-of-eulogies-by-rev-brent-hawkes-and-sarah-and-michael-layton>

**LYLA:** Our Meditation in Words is taken from the Homily for former Federal NDP Leader Jack Layton's memorial service, which was given by Toronto's Metropolitan Community Church Minister, the gay and out Rev. Brent Hawkes.

*Early in July, Jack and Olivia invited me to their home. To talk. The conversation began the way it almost began with Jack. 'Friend, how's John doing?' John is my husband. And then, Jack said that ... he wanted to talk to me about his funeral, and that he still intended to beat this. He still wanted to come back but he needed to cover every option, to make sure all of the plans were in place no matter what the result was. We talked about making the plans and filing the file and putting it in the filing cabinet – and hopefully pulling it out years later. And so we began a number of conversations about his service and about life and death and dying.*

*When all of the talking is done, when all of the tributes are done, when the chalk is washed on the concrete at City Hall, when our crying finally stops, the legacy of Jack Layton will not be in how much power you have, it will be in how all of us exercise our personal power for a better world.*

*It will be in our actions and how we take those actions together. Yes, bring your passion but also bring your compassion. Yes, bring your agendas of what you want to accomplish, but also bring a commitment about how we can accomplish that together. Yes, bring your seriousness about serious issues but also have fun – sing together and pick up a harmonica once in a while. It's about remembering, about remembering to say, 'Hi Brent. How's John doing?'*

*'Hi Canadian Prime Minister. How's Lauren doing?'*

*It's about saying, 'Hi Olivia. How's Beatrice doing?' It's about remembering each other and our love and our lives together. Over the next few years, we might not be able to say, 'Hi Jack. How's Olivia doing?' But you can say, 'Hi Jack. How are we doing?'*

## **18. MEDITATION: SILENCE**

*(Hit singing bowl.)*

*(Wait one minute, maybe two.)*

*(Ring bell.)*



**19. MEDITATION: MUSIC**  
**HALLELUJIAH** By Leonard Cohen  
*(Chorus Only. As a chant.)*

**CONGREGATION:** *Hallelujah, Hallelujah*  
*Hallelujah, Hallelujah ↓*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah*  
*Hallelujah, Hallelujah ↑*

*Halle-lu-oo-h-jah (x2)*  
*Halleluuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu-jah (x2)*  
*Hallelu-oo-h-oo-h-oo-h-oo-h-jah*

**20. 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.

**21. MEDITATION: UNISON WORDS OF SUPPORT**

**By Priestess Patricia Kevena Fili**

**From a 2006 multi-faith statement for the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce**

**Source:** [http://www.thetaskforce.org/press/releases/pr978\\_091806](http://www.thetaskforce.org/press/releases/pr978_091806)

**LYLA:** Please join me in reading our unison words of support, which come from Patricia Kevena Fili, a bisexual transgender woman and pagan priestess. They can be found in your order of service and are projected on the wall.

**CONGREGATION:** All living beings are blessed creations. There is not room for any ifs, ands or buts. We do not confuse the harm of fear and discrimination with love and divine life. We oppose any power above and power below, but recognize power between which is cooperative and nurturing.

**22. HYMN**

**#170 – We Are A Gentle Angry People**

**LYLA:** Please stand if you are able and join together in singing hymn number #170 from your grey hymnal entitled We Are A Gentle Angry People.

**CONGREGATION:** *We are a gentle angry people,*  
*And we are singing, singing for our lives.*  
*We are a gentle angry people,*

*And we are singing, singing for our lives.*

*We are a justice seeking people,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.  
We are a justice seeking people,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.*

*We are young and old together,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.  
We are young and old together,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.*

*We are a land of many colours,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.  
We are a land of many colours,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.*

*We are gay and straight together,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.  
We are gay and straight together,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.*

*We are a gentle loving people,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.  
We are a gentle loving people,  
And we are singing, singing for our lives.*

**23. SERMONETTE: My GSA Journey - Kodi Organ**  
***(Kodi did not use a script, but spoke spontaneously from the heart.)***

**LYLA:** Please be seated. I ask Kodi Organ to come and share with us her sermonette – My GSA Journey.

**KODI:** Hi.

**CONGREGATION:** Hi.

**KODI:** This is the same greeting I got from my first GSA Club. It was a November afternoon, around the eleven o'clock to twelve area, and I was just walking at lunch by myself. Sorry Mom. I told you I was walking with a friend. And I was just probably going to grab my lunch at Tim Horton's, and who did I meet? My friend Breanne. She was walking back from her Co-Op and we had talked a couple of times before, so I was wondering where she was going. She was going to the GSA Club she said. I ask her, "it's going on?" She said, "Yeah. It's every Friday in room 302." So I decided. Maybe I should go and check this out.

I had only heard of the GSA Club because we had sung a song to Jamie Rodermyer(?) who was a teen who had recently committed suicide. And we had sung Born This Way by his favourite artist Lady Gaga with our Musical Theatre Class and GSA Club.

Since joining the GSA I have been able to go to many events. I have been able to go to the Valentine's Day dance. I went to the Day of Difference. I went to our school assembly. The Rainbow Prom was only a couple of weeks ago. And just going to meeting all together.

Going to the meetings, we start by going around and saying what are names are. It's a small school so we all know who we are. But we also talk about a good thing or a bad thing that we have heard recently. In this club we can have the freedom to talk to each other. To really know what's going on underneath the surface. We can talk about our friends, our family, what's going on in GSA Community, and what we talk about in class. But we can get into greater detail because we trust each other. We're friends here.

We also had many guest speakers. From our own Board Member, she's here in the audience. Please raise your hand? (applause) As well, we had a a member of the Catholic Board come out who is openly gay. What was his name again? (Response) Paul Marai. We came out to us on our second to last meeting. We've also had a member of the AIDS Community come and talk to us, just on the scientific level.

As well, we've had our assembly. Which was only a couple of weeks after I joined. I heard about the assembly coming out and I was like "Hey this sounds like a pretty cool club, maybe I should get more into this? Get more involved. See what I can do to help."

Little did I know that I would be one of the people in total blue. I got all into it wearing blue. I think I even put blue in my hair that day. And we were standing in front making a rainbow and Heather Janssen had her song. It sounded beautiful both times I must add. We had different people sing. And Breanne was there. Our President Gareth. As well as one of our other members who was there who were able to speak. And it was just so positive. The energy that we got at that ceremony. What we got was just amazing. There were banners there and almost every single student in the school put her hand or his hand filled with paint, which by the way is a little hard to come off, and eagerly stuck it on that banner. And we still have it hanging right in the front foyer of our school. It says . . . I can't even remember what it says . . . but that's not the point . . . the point is that we all came together. We all listened to the words of love and faith and we were able to come together put our hands all of us on the board in many many colours. A complete and total rainbow. Cornucopia.

The Valentine's Day Dance was the next event I came to, because school often conflicts with the other things. There was also a GLOW event, which is the Highland GSA Club. There was also a meeting back in December and January which I could not go to, so I am not going to try and describe how the others must have felt about that.

But the Valentine's Dance was the next thing I was able to go to. My Mom was able to drive me there. And I actually made some friends with the girls I had gone with from my school. Which was amazing. I still have two friends that I met from that dance and I talk with them almost every week. At that dance . . . at many high school dances or high school area dances you'd think there would be a little bit of wine, cooler, or inappropriate dancing. This was actually one of the cleanest dances I had ever been to and the most fun dance I have ever been to. From the truth! And it was just amazing how many prizes, how much acceptance was in the room. But we didn't really think about acceptance, all we thought was LETS CRANK UP THE TUNES!

Then there was the Day of Difference. The Day of Difference took place at one of the schools in Hamilton – Sir Winston Churchill. And there was about 10 different schools at least. I can't even count how many that came out. And at that time they were still mourning the loss of one their own GSA Club Presidents that had recently passed away, committed suicide. But at the same time we mourned her loss, but we were also able to talk about other GSA's, be able to include other people who had come out, talk to each other. There were lots of comedy bits. As well, there were deeper issues that were talked about. Like what does it mean to love. What does it mean to be a member of the LGBTQ Community. And after that we were included, the whole school took part and we all went outside and we just started munching down rainbow cookies.

The last event for our GSA Club I went to was the Rainbow Prom. Two days before that I had my wisdom teeth surgery. So my Mom's like, "Are you sure you want to go to this?" And I'm like, "Mom. We bought a dress." (laughter) We bought a dress. We even put make-up on, which I do not wear make-up. (more laughter) Thank you. And it was a lot of fun. I met with my friends there who I had met at the Valentine's Day Dance. I was the only member from Parkside that went!?!? Where were you guys? (laughter & response). Ok. That is an excuse. I do admit jobs. And I only stayed there for about an hour and a half because my teeth were buzzing like crazy. But when I was there, there were photos. Everyone was wearing there most gawd up costumes. There were a lot of people who were just dancing in their groups. It felt like a totally regular prom. But you probably wouldn't have seen people running around in jeans. One of my best friends was wearing a Scottish dress and at a regular dance I think someone would have said something, but everyone was wearing such creative costumes and creative dresses and outfits that it was just ROCK ON MAN!

The thing is that, when I was asked to do this, this is actually the last GSA event of our school year, which is outside of the regular curriculum. When I heard about the church service, I was like, another opportunity to tell how great the GSA Club is, to be able to say I went here too! Yeah! Awesome! We will be able to talk to people and to educate them on what our GSA Club is like. I want to thank a couple of people in this room right now. Mr. Gelder. He's our teacher. A French Teacher at Parkside High School. And he was our Teacher Advisor along with Ms. Miklos. Gareth Eastman who was our President, as previously mentioned. And next year, Jamie Mundell, will be taking over his place when he graduates. So kudos to all of them and as well to the rest of our speakers and our performers. Wherever you may be in our crowd. And thank you very much.

## **24. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

### **God Help The Outcasts**

**By Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz**

**Sela Solomon (vocals) and Rachel Derry (piano)**

**LYLA:** Parkside grad and church member, Sela Solomon, will now share with us our Musical Interlude, *God Help The Outcasts*.

**SELA:** I don't know if You can hear me  
Or if You're even there  
I don't know if You would listen  
To a gypsy's prayer  
Yes, I know I'm just an outcast  
I shouldn't speak to you  
Still I see Your face and wonder...  
Were You once an outcast too?

God help the outcasts  
Hungry from birth  
Show them the mercy  
They don't find on earth  
God help my people  
We look to You still  
God help the outcasts  
Or nobody will

I ask for nothing  
I can get by  
But I know so many  
Less lucky than I  
Please help my people  
The poor and downtrod  
I thought we all were  
The children of God

God help the outcasts  
Children of God

## **25. SERMONETTE: *My GSA Journey* - Breanne Wilde**

**LYLA:** I now ask Breanne Wilde, Parkside Student and GSA Club Member, to come and share her Sermonette – My GSA Journey.

**BREANNE:** Good Morning.

**CONGREGATION:** Good Morning.

**BREANNE:** The first meeting our GSA had, while also having the highest attendance, was incongruously the most emotional. The first part of the meeting was spent going around the room, introducing ourselves, getting our feet under us, that sort of thing. I remember very distinctly a lot of out of character crying going on, on my part in particular. I was absolutely mortified.

Even though there was all this emotion flying about the room, truly high notes being reached in my tears, I still couldn't bring myself to say something other than "I'm a supporter". Which I am, don't get me wrong, but I wanted to communicate that "I am one of you. You can talk to me - I know what it's like." But it just wouldn't come out. I couldn't say it. I just... I couldn't.

I had no idea why, I feel absolutely zero shame about this - but that's with other people. It did feel shameful to tell people about myself, especially since it never quite felt as important as some of the things that other people seemed to be going through. At the time, I still had absolutely no idea what I should be saying about myself, how to tell people who I was. I still don't, really, but I got some really great advice recently about labels and who they're really for.

But now I can say it. I've tentatively decided that asexuality is an adequate label, for the purpose it serves, but beyond that - I'm still not sure. I don't quite know who I am. I'm 18 - I've got time, it's okay. But I'm queer.

I'm not what some people would consider normal, but nor do I fit the conventional conception of different either. But just because I'm a small part of an already small community does not make my identity any less valid. And - that was a huge revelation for me. I've been something different my whole life, whether it's my intelligence or my quirks or my non-existent social skills - I didn't know if I could cope with another. But - I can. It's still just me.

I don't know how I can convey the sheer breadth of my epiphany to you, something that must seem to elementary to most of you, but it just changed so much. It changed how comfortable I was with myself, something I've been

struggling with my whole life - my biggest personal demon. I'm not there yet - but now it feels like I can be, finally.

I know all of you don't know who I am - we are strangers who have not met before this and will likely not meet again. But if my sad little story can convince just one person that their problems are meaningful - that they matter - that they are not alone; then it will be worth it.

Thank you for your time.

## **26. OFFERING: WORDS**

**By USA Secretary of State Hillary Clinton**

**From her 2011 International Human Rights Day Speech given in Geneva, Switzerland**

**Source:** <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/12/178368.htm>

**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 our Offering Words, which are a responsive reading, adapted from a speech by Hilary Clinton. I will begin, and you will respond with the words in italics, which can be found in your order of service and will be projected on the wall.

*(Give congregants a moment to find their place in the OOS.)*

**LYLA:** And to people of all nations, I say supporting human rights is your responsibility too.

**CONGREGATION:** *The lives of gay people are shaped not only by laws, but by the treatment they receive every day from their families, from their neighbors.*

**LYLA:** Eleanor Roosevelt, who did so much to advance human rights worldwide, said that these rights begin in the small places close to home –

**CONGREGATION:** *the streets where people live, the schools they attend, the factories, farms, and offices where they work.*

**LYLA:** These places are your domain. The actions you take, the ideals that you advocate,

**CONGREGATION:** *can determine whether human rights flourish where you are.*

**27. OFFERING: MUSIC**

**LATER ON** by Kate Nash

**Clare Miles (vocals/guitar) and Maclean Johnman (percussion)**

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

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

**CLARE:** That boy behind the curtain was no one that I trusted  
I didn't like his face I didn't think he was cute  
But I kissed him just to get some information  
I used my body and his desperation

We jumped up out of there, yeah we were chased  
And I'm telling you that that time was a scary place  
But I would do it all again the same yeah, I would do it all again the same

And later on I'll cry my stupid eyes out  
Later on I'm crying like a baby  
And yeah baby don't get so disappointed  
I am not what you anticipated  
Later on I'll cry my stupid eyes out  
Later on I'm crying like a baby  
And yeah baby don't get so disappointed  
I am not what you anticipated

I wish that I did not make the decisions  
I'll never get back in to that  
I ripped my hair out of my package  
Cause I felt bad  
I let him down  
I didn't mean to make him sad

And later on I'll cry my stupid eyes out  
Later on I'm crying like a baby  
And yeah baby don't get so disappointed  
I am not what you anticipated  
Later on I'll cry my stupid eyes out  
Later on I'm crying like a baby  
And yeah baby don't get so disappointed  
I am not what you anticipated

One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six. Seven. Eight. Nine. Ten. Eleven.



And later on I'll cry my stupid eyes out  
Later on I'm crying like a baby  
And yeah baby don't get so disappointed  
I am not what you anticipated  
Later on I'll cry my stupid eyes out  
Later on I'm crying like a baby  
And yeah baby don't get so disappointed  
I am not what you anticipated

I am not what you anticipated

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

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

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

**By Bishop Gene Robinson**

**From a 2012 interview with Queerty**

**Source:** <http://www.queerty.com/bishop-gene-robinson-full-inclusion-of-lgbts-in-religion-inevitable-intolerant-denominations-increasingly-irrelevant-20120131/>

**LYLA:** I ask Garet Eastman and Jessica Brennan to come forward to extinguish our chalice as Kodi Organ shares our going forth words . . .

*(Kodi comes to the podium.)*

*(Garet and Jessica come to the chalice.)*

**LYLA:** . . . which come from Gene Robinson, out gay man, and the ninth bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire with the Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

**KODI:** The full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in the church, the mosque, and the synagogue is inevitable. All we're talking about is timing. How long will it take to make that a reality? I believe that's God's will, and the church, the synagogue and the mosque may have gotten this wrong for this many years, but God has never gotten it wrong. God has always loved God's gay children.

*(Garet and Jessica extinguish the chalice.)*

*(Kodi, Garet, and Jessica return to their seats.)*

## 29. POSTLUDE

**True Colors** by Billy Steinberg & Tom Kelly  
Cynthia Johnman (vocals/piano)

**LYLA:** Thank you Kodi, Garet, and Jessica.

Please remain seated for our Postlude, which will be sing by Cynthia Johnman.

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

**CYNTHIA:** You with the sad eyes  
Don't be discouraged  
Oh I realize  
Its hard to take courage  
In a world full of people  
You can lose sight of it all  
And the darkness inside you  
Can make you feel so small

But I see your true colors  
Shining through  
I see your true colors  
And that's why I love you  
So don't be afraid to let them show  
Your true colors  
True colors are beautiful,  
Like a rainbow

Show me a smile then,  
Don't be unhappy, can't remember  
When I last saw you laughing  
If this world makes you crazy  
And you've taken all you can bear  
You call me up  
Because you know I'll be there

And I'll see your true colors  
Shining through  
I see your true colors  
And that's why I love you  
So don't be afraid to let them show  
Your true colors  
True colors are beautiful,  
Like a rainbow

If this world makes you crazy  
And you've taken all you can bear  
You call me up  
Because you know I'll be there

And I'll see your true colors  
Shining through  
I see your true colors  
And that's why I love you  
So don't be afraid to let them show

Your true colors  
True colors  
True colors  
Shining through

I see your true colors  
And that's why I love you  
So don't be afraid to let them show  
Your true colors  
True colors are beautiful,  
Like a rainbow

### **30. FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

**LYLA:** Thank you Cynthia. I invite all of you to please join us in the foyer for fellowship.