

Transcript 08-29-2021 "The Keys Are in Your Pocket"

00:07

so

00:11

[Music]

00:16

unitarian universalist

00:19

walking through the door just gives my

00:22

heart a lift

00:23

people ask

00:25

what kind of church is this unitarian

00:31

[Music]

00:34

who knows what i can't walk or talk the

00:37

less

00:38

unitarian

00:40

universalist to hold the never-ending

00:43

question of the heart who's beaten cysts

00:45

i'm a unitarian universalist

00:50

[Music]

00:54

even though

00:56

what

00:57

you say

00:58

might not be what i know

01:00  
we  
01:01  
say it all too together  
01:05  
every sunday we go  
01:07  
searching through our lives for the  
01:09  
mystery of loving sifting through the  
01:12  
times like an old-fashioned covenant i  
01:16  
know  
01:16  
this is  
01:18  
my church eternal talking about  
01:22  
these are  
01:24  
lie and people  
01:26  
the voices singing and shouting  
01:30  
unitarian universalists standing  
01:33  
altogether we offer the world a gift the  
01:36  
all-important question of eternal  
01:39  
compassion to the morning star rising up  
01:42  
the living tradition of  
01:48  
unitarian  
01:49  
universalism  
01:51  
[Music]

01:53

what time's the next service unitarian

01:57

universalist walking through the door

02:00

just gives my heart a lift people ask

02:04

what kind of church is this unitarian

02:08

universalist

02:09

[Music]

02:21

welcome to the unitarian universalist

02:24

church of utica i'm roz kearney a member

02:27

of the board

02:28

whether you are visiting for the first

02:30

time or have been a member for many

02:32

years you are welcome here whatever

02:36

faith you have known if any you are

02:39

welcome here

02:40

whoever you are and whomever you love

02:43

you are welcome here

02:45

we are invited to bring our whole selves

02:48

to this worship service our doubts as

02:50

well as our convictions the pain and joy

02:53

we have known

02:55

our longing for connection and

02:57

understanding

02:58

every part of you

03:00

is welcome here

03:03

and i have two announcements

03:07

um

03:09

one is that this church is sponsoring a

03:12

workshop by patrick johnson on saturday

03:15

september 18th for uus and friends

03:19

and we hope many can come

03:22

patrick will discuss issues of race in

03:24

our country and community and facilitate

03:28

discussions on how we may work towards

03:30

anti-racism and bring resistance to

03:33

oppression of all kinds into our daily

03:36

actions and spiritual lives

03:38

the workshop will be outdoors here under

03:41

a big tent and all are welcome

03:44

the workshop will be from 9 30 to 2 30

03:47

with a break for lunch

03:49

information will be available in

03:51

upcoming newsletters

03:52

but we really hope that you put it on

03:55

your calendars now

03:57

and also for today for the social hour

04:00

please help yourself to some very

04:01

delicious cherry tomatoes of all sorts

04:04

from the utica community gardens

04:06

since they are in abundance this year

04:08

and carol specially brought them here

04:11

and there are also some donuts

04:14

good morning i'm reverend lori stavis

04:16

i'm your minister and i am so happy to

04:19

see you and to recognize so many faces

04:21

this morning so i want to invite us to

04:24

be here in this moment

04:26

and i want to invite us to do this

04:30

with a breathing meditation that's also

04:33

song so if you're more comfortable

04:35

putting your masks on in singing

04:38

please do

04:39

otherwise

04:41

join with me

04:42

there's this in three parts and

04:44

melissa's going to be joining me on the

04:46

high part but many of you know this from

04:49

our hymnal

04:50

and so let us join together with

04:53

when i breathe in

04:56

i breathe in peace

05:00

when i breathe out

05:03

i breathe out loud

05:07

when i breathe in

05:10

i breathe in peace

05:14

when i breathe out

05:17

i breathe out love

05:20

well there's another part that i want us

05:22

to do

05:23

some of those with lower voices might

05:26

want to do this part

05:28

breathe in

05:31

breathe out

05:34

breathe

05:35

[Music]

05:38

out so can i have those people that are

05:40

going to be singing that start with me

05:44

breathe in

05:45

[Music]

05:47

breathe out

05:49

breathe in

05:52

breathe out keep that going

05:59

when i breathe in

06:02

i breathe in peace when i breathe out

06:07

i breathe out love

06:10

when i breathe in

06:12

i breathe in peace when i breathe out

06:18

i breathe out loud

06:22

when i breathe in i breathe in peace

06:28

when i breathe heart i breathe out love

06:35

[Music]

06:45

when i breathe in

06:49

i breathe in peace when i breathe out

06:53

[Music]

06:54

i breathe out loud

06:57

when i breathe in

07:00

i breathe

07:02

[Music]

07:15

we're so conscious of our breathing

07:21

let us gather together in worship and

07:24

light our chalice

07:26

and randy dr randy becker is joining me

07:29

for service this morning and joining us

07:35

welcome to this place of possibility

07:37

this is love's hearth

07:40

the home of hope

07:42

a refuge for mine searching for truth

07:45

and ever unfolding

07:48

ever beautiful and strange

07:51

here compassion

07:53

is our shelter



07:55

as we are here in this open tent this

07:58

morning

07:59

and

08:00

our shelter is here as freedom from the

08:04

storms of bigotry

08:06

and in this community may we find

08:09

comfort

08:11

as well as courage

08:14

here may our sight become vision

08:18

to see and to glimpse the unseen

08:22

that is yet to be

08:33

we always have a message for all ages or

08:36

together time so even though there may

08:39

not be children here there may be some

08:41

online with us this morning welcome to

08:43

all those that are joining us via zoom

08:47

um so i want to speak to

08:50

um all ages right now

08:53

and even though this message may be for

08:55

children and teens i think it will

08:57

resonate as well

08:58

with i know it does with me

09:01

so i'm pretty sure that everyone here

09:04

and on zoom can think back to a time

09:06

when you were riding as a child in a car

09:09

and asking the question in from the back

09:12

seat

09:13

on the long journey

09:15

with an adult at the wheel

09:17

asking the same question over and over

09:21

and over again until that parent or

09:24

guardian was going crazy are we there

09:27

yet

09:29

are we there yet

09:30

are we there yet

09:33

and all too often the response was no we

09:35

are not there yet

09:37

we are not there yet

09:40

we are not there yet

09:44

and we know

09:46

that we had to keep asking that question

09:49

because someone else was in the driver's

09:51

seat

09:53

and we really didn't have the means for

09:56

mapping and navigating our own pathway

10:00

and we trusted

10:02

who was driving to

10:05

provide a good roadmap

10:07

and to know where they were going

10:09

and to get us there

10:13

well i think back on how painfully slow

10:18

childhood was

10:20

now i yearn for that i yearn for how how

10:23

long the days were or how long that

10:26

journey was

10:28

because things seemed to be moving a

10:30

little bit too fast

10:33

days can seem endless

10:35

um

10:36

but there's always in the back your mind

10:38

i think when you're a child

10:40

that there's some sense of destination

10:43

that you're going to arrive somewhere

10:45

you at some point are going to grow up

10:48

there is going to be a moment

10:50

where you become an adult

10:54

and a lot of our are we there yet are we

10:56

there yet is checking ourselves for am i

10:59

there yet am i an adult have i have i

11:02

arrived

11:04

well

11:05

we do arrive at some destinations

11:10

i know you can mark probably many many

11:14

um occasions of your life where you feel

11:17

like yes

11:20

you know i've made it

11:22

at least this far

11:24

at least this far

11:27

but

11:28

i know now

11:30  
that miraculous day of arriving at  
11:33  
adulthood  
11:34  
never  
11:35  
really comes  
11:38  
here i am  
11:39  
in the  
11:40  
probably the the last third of my life  
11:44  
and i still am asking  
11:46  
am i there yet am i there yet  
11:50  
and  
11:51  
i think one of the things that draws me  
11:53  
to this religious tradition  
11:55  
is the sense  
11:57  
of  
11:58  
ongoing  
12:00  
journey  
12:03  
there's no fixed point where  
12:07  
we say you know we believe this and this  
12:09  
is our platform so we have arrived  
12:13  
i think we are all called to that

12:15

self-examination

12:17

and now that we are adults and we are in

12:19

the driver's seat to still be asking

12:22

some of the same questions are we there

12:24

yet

12:25

are we there yet

12:27

but one of the things we know is that

12:29

there isn't

12:31

a final destination

12:34

even

12:35

at death

12:37

we are a part of the cycle of life that

12:39

keeps going on

12:41

but there are some road

12:43

road maps along the way one of them i

12:46

think is

12:47

um that we don't journey alone

12:50

that you find partners on this this

12:54

travel of ours and here we are partners

12:57

in this journey as unitarian

13:00

universalists

13:01

so even though there may not be a final

13:04

destination just know that we do not

13:07

travel alone

13:10

and i hope that that

13:11

brings you a little comfort

13:14

and also

13:15

makes you feel a little bit more at ease

13:18

while you are traveling the road of life

13:24

we have an opening hymn this morning and

13:26

i know that we will be hearing and

13:28

seeing words

13:30

um so please join in as you feel able

13:35

[Music]

13:49

we got the together in joyful

13:54

[Music]

13:58

[Applause]

13:59

thanksgiving we

14:01

[Music]

14:11

to the life that we wear

14:15

[Music]

14:28

our true reformation

14:31

in joy and tribulation

14:34

when born to human care

14:37

and hope that we

14:39

are free

14:44

good morning as we'd say good morning

14:46

all y'all

14:48

being from down in the beautiful

14:50

concrete public at the end of the keys

14:52

in authority which is now my home

14:55

but my spiritual home is there and also

14:59

down on oneida square in a yellow brick

15:01

building i'm randy becker

15:03

and i grew up in the universalist

15:06

unitarian church of the reconciliation

15:09

in utica

15:11

first started going there in the late

15:13

40s and it's been an interesting journey

15:15

and i want to talk to you about a little



15:16  
bit of that journey  
15:18  
because  
15:19  
are we there yet interesting question  
15:22  
always in process  
15:24  
and there are things that happen along  
15:26  
the way that may ask  
15:28  
did i get a foundation that was worth  
15:30  
having did i get the things that would  
15:32  
sustain me did i get those things that  
15:34  
would somehow let my heart go on when it  
15:37  
looked like things were stopping  
15:40  
back at the end of april my wife of 30  
15:42  
years elisa bishop becker died  
15:47  
and the next sunday i knew i needed to  
15:49  
be in some worshipful community  
15:53  
unfortunately the unitarian universalist  
15:55  
congregation in key west is  
15:59  
not one i can attend at the moment  
16:01  
so i went to the nearest one saint james  
16:04  
first missionary baptist church

16:07  
now talk about being a stretch from  
16:09  
where i would be  
16:10  
but i knew people there i would enjoy  
16:12  
historic black church  
16:14  
and as is the tradition after the  
16:16  
minister got done with his sermon  
16:19  
his 45 minute long sermon  
16:22  
and we had a piece of music he then said  
16:24  
i've got another clergyman here in the  
16:26  
town and the house dr becker you come up  
16:29  
and say a few words you know if you're  
16:31  
visiting you got to say a few words  
16:33  
and a passage came to my mind i wanted  
16:36  
to talk about that morning and i want to  
16:38  
share it with you i think i mentioned it  
16:40  
when one of our services here too  
16:43  
and that message was  
16:45  
my heart is heavy  
16:48  
but my faith is not broken  
16:52  
my heart

16:53

is heavy

16:55

but my faith is not broken

16:59

and i talked that day with them about

17:02

how that might be cast in terms of

17:03

biblical things but i want to cast it

17:05

now in unitarian universalist terms

17:07

because across my life there have been

17:10

so many occasions

17:11

in which my heart has been heavy

17:14

but i've always found my faith has not

17:16

been broken

17:18

diagnosis when i was 26 of a

17:21

stage 4

17:22

cancer

17:24

still here

17:26

a child born to us who never came home

17:29

from the hospital with us

17:32

the death of my daughter from a drunk

17:35

driver

17:36

now the death of my wife

17:39

but i was given tools

17:42

i was given understandings i was given

17:44

meaning in this faith community that

17:47

sustained me through all those and so

17:50

much more

17:51

and i want to share just three of them

17:54

one is

17:55

that there can be meaning on the other

17:57

side of anything there are no natural

18:01

barriers to our capacity as human being

18:04

as people of liberal faith define

18:07

meaning even through anything

18:10

victor frankl wrote that whole book

18:12

about finding meaning even in the

18:14

concentration camps

18:16

that idea that on the other side there

18:18

can be meaning and the other one i would

18:20

mention before i get to my ultimate one

18:23

and that is

18:25

that this

18:26

world and what happens in it is not a

18:30

judgment on us

18:31

that there's not some force somewhere

18:33

that says oh you did wrong and we're

18:36

going to get you

18:37

that life is not out to get us

18:41

that there's not some kind of force that

18:43

wants to somehow

18:45

judge us and condemn us or maybe hold

18:48

out a little sprig of forgiveness but no

18:51

and then the ultimate one that has

18:53

sustained me through all of it is the

18:55

idea that we live in an existence that

18:58

is full

19:00

full of possibility and potential

19:05

and if we only see that we don't have to

19:08

see it all we just have to see a little

19:10

glimpse of it now and then

19:12

and that is enough to sustain us

19:15

and that glimpse may come through us

19:18

it may come through friends it may come

19:20

through a congregation it may come

19:22

through a sunset who knows how it's

19:23

going to come

19:25

but life is always offering

19:27

possibilities

19:28

even in the impossible places

19:32

that's the faith this congregation gave

19:35

me

19:36

and it sustained me so far through all

19:39

my life

19:40

and i know it always will

19:43

bless it

19:45

thank you

19:46

thank you

19:48

we don't always share

19:51

much about our faith

19:54

so i'm

19:55

really glad we're speaking about that

19:57

this morning

19:59

i want to share a reading to start us

20:02

off

20:03

um that was written by

20:06

the the late gordon mckinnon

20:09

we knew him as bucky

20:11

bucky uh one of the

20:14

the last uh great universalists before

20:18

we we

20:19

with uh unitarians

20:21

so this comes from his uh reading dead

20:24

battery

20:26

he said our camper van is one of the

20:28

less active members of our family and

20:30

it's reassuring to see the van that's

20:32

ready to burst into activity

20:35

at the turn of a key

20:37

well the other day though when our

20:39

constant duty vehicle was absent on an

20:41

errand

20:42

i needed to undertake what seemed like

20:44  
an urgent mission so  
20:47  
i took the van  
20:49  
went out  
20:50  
turned the key  
20:53  
nothing  
20:55  
not a cough  
20:56  
not a tremor not a flickering light  
21:00  
nothing my instantaneous diagnosis  
21:05  
dead battery  
21:07  
it occurred to me that sometimes we  
21:10  
leave our religion sitting idly in the  
21:13  
corners of our lives awaiting some  
21:15  
emergency or crisis  
21:19  
or some accident  
21:21  
comes a crisis we leap to our religion  
21:24  
and turn the key  
21:27  
not a whimper  
21:28  
not a cough  
21:30  
not a shutter  
21:32  
no lights flickering



21:34

nothing

21:37

it is then i think that we are reminded

21:40

that a little preventative maintenance

21:43

might have kept our faith energized for

21:46

such a time

21:48

we never know when an urgent need for

21:51

our deep and active faith will arise and

21:54

when people ask why i attend church so

21:56

regularly i respond

21:59

i go there to recharge my battery

22:12

well losing my keys is a sure sign that

22:16

all is not right with my life

22:18

maybe you all have the thing that

22:20

happens to you that is the

22:23

red flag that says you know

22:25

things are not going well you better pay

22:27

better attention

22:29

i can look everywhere we can look

22:31

everywhere when we lose our keys

22:34

in drawers under tables in spots where

22:36

we never even go

22:39

in a frantic search

22:42

to get that one thing that can help us

22:44

move forward with our day in fact it can

22:47

take up a lot of our day if we lose our

22:50

keys

22:52

well i think that when we don't find

22:56

them

22:57

the next temptation is to look around

23:00

someone else

23:02

and say

23:03

what did you do

23:05

with keys

23:09

oh

23:10

so

23:11

i think it isn't until we start to calm

23:14

ourselves down to ground ourselves and

23:17

that anxiety

23:19

and reflect

23:20

a moment where we actually begin to

23:24  
remember  
23:26  
we do this when we lose our keys and we  
23:29  
do this when we lose  
23:31  
our faith  
23:34  
now some may ask how can you lose faith  
23:37  
if you're a unitarian universalist  
23:40  
it's not a fixed set of beliefs  
23:44  
how can you lose something you don't  
23:45  
have  
23:47  
because a lot of people wouldn't  
23:48  
describe unitarian universalists as a  
23:51  
faith tradition  
23:54  
but if faith is a deep  
23:57  
and abiding understanding  
24:01  
of an ultimate concern and conviction  
24:05  
then  
24:06  
i think that  
24:10  
we can  
24:12  
call ourselves a people of faith  
24:16  
because if you lose this connection to

24:20

being grounded in

24:23

a source of life

24:25

grounded to one another i think we can

24:28

lose our way

24:32

long-held convictions of human potential

24:36

have been foundational to our faith

24:38

tradition and i think during these times

24:41

it is easy to despair and it's easy

24:44

to not see

24:46

that potential for human goodness around

24:49

us

24:51

there are so many stories we could tell

24:54

about that

24:55

right here this morning

24:57

we are living in times where pandemic

25:01

and polarized politics

25:03

oppression and global climate

25:06

crisis dominate the landscape

25:09

of both our inner and our outer lives

25:12

and the way forward really isn't clear

25:17  
it isn't even clear for  
25:20  
people who  
25:22  
spend time  
25:23  
trying to set forth vision  
25:26  
ministers shamans  
25:29  
priests  
25:32  
people who spend a lot of time thinking  
25:34  
about meaning  
25:36  
the way right now may not seem so clear  
25:41  
but many religious traditions teach us  
25:44  
that we are redeemed  
25:47  
by such a landscape  
25:50  
we are redeemed by  
25:52  
what is referred to as our  
25:54  
wilderness experience  
25:57  
has anybody felt like they have been in  
25:59  
the wilderness  
26:02  
yeah  
26:04  
yeah  
26:05  
i think we are going through times

26:07  
that  
26:08  
actually would  
26:10  
relate directly to what  
26:13  
a lot of sacred scripture  
26:15  
in all world traditions would refer to  
26:18  
as a wilderness  
26:19  
wilderness experienced times when we are  
26:22  
most vulnerable though  
26:24  
and most at risk  
26:26  
are precisely the times  
26:29  
where we  
26:30  
through that vulnerability  
26:32  
often are open enough  
26:35  
ego all the things we know  
26:38  
all the things we trusted and new and  
26:40  
all that sense of agency  
26:43  
because it has  
26:45  
been moved aside and crumbled perhaps  
26:49  
we are in that vulnerability sometimes  
26:51  
more open

26:53  
for  
26:55  
the next step  
26:57  
for new ways of being  
27:00  
to find some greater meaning perhaps  
27:04  
as we move forward  
27:06  
through  
27:08  
the desert  
27:10  
well the exodus story of course many of  
27:12  
you are familiar with the passover story  
27:15  
from exodus story of the hebrew people's  
27:17  
journey from enslavement to freedom  
27:21  
and then  
27:23  
finding the promised land  
27:25  
however there's a subtext that reveals  
27:28  
another story  
27:30  
and it is the struggle really that  
27:32  
individuals face to form viable  
27:35  
community  
27:37  
it's not about destination it's about  
27:40  
these people

27:42

who escape egypt

27:44

spend time in the desert and journey

27:47

towards this this vision this place

27:52

and

27:53

there arise but but the journey itself

27:56

was so much more important than just

27:59

this

28:00

sense of

28:01

getting there

28:04

many contemporary jews do not envision

28:07

the promised land as a place at all

28:10

but a way of being in relationship

28:14

as a covenantal people

28:19

to arrive

28:22

as a people instead of a set of

28:25

individuals

28:28

well while passover marks the

28:30

remembering of the exodus story

28:33

rosh hashanah and yom kippur

28:35

september 6th



28:37  
will be monday  
28:39  
the beginning of rosh hashanah invite  
28:41  
the faithful to a time of reconciliation  
28:45  
in a time of forgiveness  
28:47  
and coming back to a re-commitment  
28:50  
to being a covenantal people to remember  
28:55  
to remember  
29:02  
it is a time  
29:04  
to reach out to those  
29:06  
with whom you feel some discord  
29:10  
and we have had those moments together  
29:13  
this past  
29:15  
nine months that we've been together  
29:16  
we've had we've had discord we've had a  
29:19  
falling outs over  
29:21  
which way to go  
29:23  
how are we going to be as a people  
29:26  
this reconciliation is important to the  
29:30  
process of this reconnecting to this  
29:33  
revisioning process

29:40

i will be joining our local jewish

29:42

community

29:43

on on monday i always try to attend

29:48

uh rosh hashana and yang kippur because

29:49

i love

29:51

what it calls me to do

29:54

but we too as a people of faith have

29:57

come far on

29:58

the journey and

30:00

you all have been through

30:03

a lot

30:04

and you know it

30:06

and you have done much

30:09

to move forward

30:12

and so in in some ways

30:14

it is important to celebrate that

30:16

there are moments where you can say yes

30:19

we did arrive we did this

30:22

but we're still on this journey

30:25

you know one of our hymns

30:27

um speaks to this kind of tension

30:31

between journeying together and we're

30:33

all welcome and let's all come and we're

30:36

going to form this this caravan together

30:40

and then there's a second part that

30:43

reminds us that we fail again and again

30:46

and again but that failing

30:49

is only an opportunity as randy said

30:52

an opportunity

30:55

to reform

30:58

at a deeper level our connections to one

31:00

another so if you feel comfortable in

31:02

joining me you will know this

31:06

come

31:07

come whoever

31:09

you want

31:11

wanderer worshiper lover of leaving ours

31:18

[Music]

31:27

the other counterpoint to this of course

31:30

is

31:31

we've broken

31:32

our vows a thousand times we've broken

31:36

our vows a thousand times we've broken

31:39

our vows a thousand times we've broken

31:43

our vows a thousand times

31:47

the truth of the matter when we're on a

31:48

journey is that those things do go

31:50

together

31:51

so let's sing them together choose your

31:54

part

31:56

come come whoever you are wanderer

32:01

worshiper lover of leaving ours is no

32:05

caravan of despair

32:08

come

32:09

yet again come

32:12

we've broken our house a thousand times

32:15

we've broken our house of thousands and

32:19

times we've broken our cause a thousand

32:23

times

32:25

[Music]

32:34  
is a feminist theologian gestalt  
32:37  
therapist and poet who offers these  
32:39  
words as she paraphrases sacred  
32:41  
scripture from the hebrew text  
32:44  
i will give you dreams in the desert to  
32:46  
guide your safety forward  
32:48  
to plea to a place where you have not  
32:51  
yet seen  
32:53  
i am sending you into the wilderness to  
32:56  
make a new way  
32:58  
to learn my ways more deeply  
33:02  
sing songs as you go  
33:04  
hold close together  
33:08  
you may at times grow confused and lose  
33:12  
your way  
33:14  
touch each other  
33:16  
even if it's virtual  
33:18  
touch each other and keep telling  
33:21  
stories make maps as you go and also  
33:24  
remembering the way back from before you

33:27

were born

33:32

we are people living in times of radical

33:36

reformation

33:39

everything we know

33:42

may not be true

33:45

everything we thought we knew

33:48

we need to

33:50

rethink some of that

33:52

we struggle to transform our ways of

33:55

being in right relationship we are doing

33:58

that here we struggle to be in right

34:00

relationship with one another

34:03

we struggle and are

34:05

addressing

34:07

our relationship

34:09

with the oppressed

34:13

and with our own home planet

34:21

some may come to

34:24

congregational life to escape harsh acts

34:27

of life

34:28  
and hope that they will find some  
34:31  
haven some safe place secure  
34:35  
haven from all that's happening  
34:39  
and i think while we do hope that we  
34:41  
offer some measure of comfort  
34:44  
the truth of our lives is that we are  
34:47  
misled if we think being  
34:49  
part of a faith community  
34:52  
is  
34:54  
going to keep us immune to the trials  
34:56  
and tribulations um  
34:59  
of living  
35:00  
intentionally  
35:02  
with others  
35:04  
we  
35:05  
are  
35:06  
both challenged  
35:08  
and we are changed  
35:12  
by every turn  
35:16  
however i think when we chance

35:18

um to

35:20

trust

35:22

trust one another enough

35:25

to be companions along the way

35:29

we can begin to form this identity

35:34

of something new the deeper thing that

35:36

we are to discover

35:38

in this wilderness experience

35:41

our seven principles are a roadmap

35:44

we are about to possibly add an eighth

35:50

we

35:51

also

35:52

have a will

35:54

in this congregation a strong will to

35:57

create a covenant

35:59

that will also help guide the ways that

36:02

we live and and interact with one

36:04

another and attend to our highest

36:07

aspirations as a beloved community

36:13

but



36:14  
while we seek to modify our nation's  
36:17  
political  
36:18  
and social and economic landscape  
36:21  
we must first and for  
36:23  
foremost look  
36:26  
to continue to chart our way  
36:30  
here  
36:31  
and forge  
36:33  
this bond  
36:35  
not as individuals not as a collection  
36:38  
of individuals but as a people  
36:41  
of faith  
36:42  
in order to continue that journey  
36:45  
much of my ministry with you  
36:47  
how be it ever through zoom  
36:51  
has been about not so much what you do  
36:55  
but who you are  
36:57  
together  
36:59  
the choices that you make in each moment  
37:03  
about how you are going to

37:05

move forward together

37:09

james fowler from stages of faith

37:11

development has um

37:14

instructed us on the different stages

37:16

that we move forward and we we did talk

37:18

about that in an earlier service but um

37:20

i think when we talk about faith

37:23

i think we call upon it

37:25

to provide um

37:27

a place to stand in the presence of

37:31

what could otherwise be an abyss

37:35

the sense of nothing no meaning

37:38

stripped of our life supports trusting

37:41

only our being and the mercy and the

37:44

power of that

37:47

can be overwhelming

37:49

i think faith

37:51

causes

37:52

to form a dependable

37:55

life space

37:57

something that's an ultimate environment

38:01

even when everything else is changing

38:03

not that that does not that ultimacy

38:05

doesn't also change

38:07

but some sense of

38:09

of

38:11

deep abiding trust

38:16

even as everything we once trusted

38:19

proves unworthy

38:20

faith enables us to step forward with

38:24

some measure of hope

38:27

and with some measure of possibility

38:30

as we launch out into the unknown

38:34

even if some of that just comes

38:37

from the trust that you have in yourself

38:41

or in the people right here that you are

38:44

with this morning

38:54

we are heading into some very uncharted

38:56

territory

38:58

and the actual landscape of our lives is

39:00

very complicated

39:03

and

39:04

there are places that we will need to go

39:08

that we aren't even aware of right now

39:11

um

39:12

that

39:13

for which there is no clear direction

39:15

and i think this is where our faith can

39:18

actually serve us well

39:20

centuries ago explorers relied upon the

39:24

north star

39:26

to find their way into the unknown

39:28

because they used the star to locate

39:30

themselves no matter where they were

39:32

because it was the for them the one true

39:34

constant

39:36

the one thing they knew to be true the

39:39

one true thing they knew beyond all else

39:47

for me i tried to chart my course

39:50

with

39:51  
a vision statement  
39:55  
and here it is  
39:57  
to the end  
39:59  
that all shall know wholeness  
40:01  
and each shall live  
40:03  
as one  
40:07  
it's a simple thing to remember harder  
40:10  
to live out if you apply that  
40:14  
to  
40:15  
what you do  
40:16  
these words though have been forged from  
40:18  
the foundations of my unitarian  
40:20  
universalist faith they are grounded in  
40:23  
liberal theology and science and it's an  
40:26  
affirmation  
40:28  
um with the insurance  
40:31  
that i have found from this faith the  
40:33  
assurance  
40:34  
of a vision really that there is dignity  
40:37  
in each life

40:39  
and there is the hope  
40:41  
for the unity of all life  
40:44  
or at least the awareness of that unity  
40:50  
so i asked you this morning to begin  
40:53  
together  
40:55  
but also  
40:57  
as an individual to reflect inward on  
41:01  
that one true constant  
41:05  
what is it that you know  
41:07  
above all else  
41:09  
that helps you fix your course  
41:13  
as an individual and as you participate  
41:15  
together as a people of faith  
41:19  
what do you know to be true  
41:28  
[Music]  
41:29  
done the words we're offering today come  
41:31  
from the reverend victoria weinstein  
41:35  
the purpose of the church is to  
41:36  
encourage all who gather there to grow  
41:38  
more generous in spirit and action

41:41

this is the great end of all the world's

41:43

faith traditions

41:45

to bring the human being closer to the

41:47

divine by acts of creation and

41:49

compassion

41:51

we now take an offering that allows us

41:53

to exercise that all-important

41:54

generosity of spirit

41:56

an offering that will support this

41:58

self-supporting church and its many

42:00

ministries

42:01

the guests of this congregation will be

42:03

gratefully received

42:06

[Music]

43:18

so

43:21

[Music]

44:37

i think our chalice has

44:41

gone out maybe in honor of those that

44:43

we've lost

44:50

let's join in closing him and i believe

44:53  
you all know  
44:54  
the words to love will guide us  
44:59  
and sometimes we can feel like perhaps  
45:02  
that's  
45:03  
ultimately  
45:05  
what we have  
45:07  
in the end  
45:10  
[Music]  
45:30  
on the  
45:32  
[Music]  
45:43  
if you can't  
45:46  
[Music]  
45:50  
if you cannot  
45:53  
speak before thousands  
45:57  
you can give from  
46:00  
deep within you  
46:03  
you can change the world  
46:06  
with your love  
46:10  
love  
46:12  
[Music]



46:30

love will guide us

46:40

[Music]

47:03

do

47:06

[Music]

48:12

do

49:06

[Music]

50:17

you

English (auto-generated)

All

Listenable