**HUU Sunday Service Script Template 2023**

*This template reflects updates as of January, 2023. For resources and ideas for readings for chalice lighting, etc. see monthly Soul Matters. Also check this website:* [*https://www.uua.org/worship*](https://www.uua.org/worship)

*Your task as facilitator is to create and hold sacred space for the presenter. You are supporting her/him while welcoming guests and inviting the participation of all in the service. It is also your responsibility to end the service on time, making adjustments as needed during the service. This may mean selecting only 1 or 2 verses of a hymn or omitting community dialogue.*

*Be aware that the entire order of service is informed by Unitarian Universalist principles. The following is meant as a sample. Be creative and use your own words and ideas.*

**RINGING THE BELL**

*Prior to the service, the RE coordinator will ask a child and adult helper to ring the bell.*

**SETTING A TONE**

*An invocation or contemplative reading at this point may help quiet and calm the room. Consider reading one of these (yourself, not responsively):*

* *# 435 (“We come together this morning …” or*
* *#443 (“We arrive out of many singular rooms …”) or*
* *#444 (“This house is for the ingathering of* nature *and human nature …”) or*
* *#418 (Come into the circle of love and justice. . .)*

*You are encouraged to seek out other appropriate readings. Or you may omit “setting a tone” and move directly to Words of Welcome.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Welcome to the Harrisonburg Unitarian Universalists. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , *add something personal about yourself if you wish; you may also introduce the theme of the day and the speaker and mention special events of the morning if you wish. If you don’t introduce the speaker here, then be sure to do it just prior to his/her talk.*

Do one of the following:

* Mention the 3 key tasks of the community
* Mention the 7 UU principles
* Use the words of Blake (below), a statement about the covenant we share

*For the 3 key tasks, here are some ways to talk about these:*

As we meet each Sunday, we remind ourselves that three key tasks of this religious community are:

*Choose a version of our key tasks that resonates with you or write your own. It will be more meaningful to you and to others when you create your own definitions.*

* sense-making, helping each other to find the truths in our lives and in the world;
* care-giving, helping each other through the hard times and celebrating the good times
* justice-seeking, trying to leave this community and the world a better place for our having been here.

*Another version*

* sense-making, searching for meanings that help us lead lives of integrity and purpose in a challenging world;
* care-giving, helping each other in difficulty and celebrating the joys of life together;
* justice-seeking, each acting to leave the world a better place for our presence.

*Another …*

* sense-making, the effort to find and name the truths that we discover;
* care-giving, helping each other at difficult times in life’s journey and celebrating together as well;
* and justice-seeking, trying to make our world a better place for us having been here.

*A well-received recent alternative formulation*

In the words of James Vila Blake (#473 in hymnal),

Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law.

This is our great covenant:

To dwell together in peace,

To seek the truth in love,

And to help one another.

*For the 7 UU principles:*

One possibility: choose the principle most related to the service; read it and make the link with the service

Another option: quickly read all 7 principles, reminding the congregation that this is the basis of our UU congregation

Or. . . choose the principle(s) that most speaks to you and share its meaning for you

**Greeting Visitors**

Are there any visitors with us for the first or second time today? We’d like to get to know you.  If you are willing, please introduce yourself via the chat function in our Zoom meeting or would you be willing to stand and introduce yourself if you are attending in person.

*(Allow time here for visitors to introduce themselves)*

We welcome you and invite you and all gathered to stay after the service for coffee (or if it is a first Sunday for a potluck meal*.)*

We are a diverse community and out of that diversity we share in the leadership of the congregation. It is here that we seek to respect our differences and to go beyond our diversities to experience our Oneness, knowing that we are all part of the interdependent web of all existence.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CRE (Children’s Religious Exploration) –** is a program for the children of our community, led by our CRE director, Paula Bennet. Please contact Paula at the email listed on this slide if you would like more information about CRE.

**PRELUDE**

*Give the pianist a cue when the announcements are over (preferable just with eye contact and a nod) and sit down. Stand up again when the prelude is over.*

**LIGHTING THE CHALICE**

*Read your chalice lighting text and light the chalice. This is also a good place to involve others. You may want to ask another person, child or adult, to light the chalice while you read. Or you may wish to ask 2 others to participate, one to read the text and one to light the candle. The participants may be in person or via Zoom. If using Zoom participants, have someone also light the chalice at HUU at the same time.*

**OPENING HYMN**:

I invite you now to stand, in body or in spirit, and join in singing our opening Hymn *number and title.*

**UU Minute and SINGING THE CHILDREN OUT**

If there are any children present, invite them to come forward for the story. After the story, we sing the children out..

*After the story,* “Let’s stand and sing them on their way.”

**Sing Out the Children** Hymn #301 Verse 2 **sung once**

Touch the earth, reach the sky!

Children ask the reasons why.

In our lives the answers show,

and by our love they learn and grow.

**SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS**

*You are welcome to introduce Joys and Concerns in your own way. A suggestion:*

At this point each week, we invite each other to speak of the joys and concerns of the week past. This is not a time for announcements that include times and dates but rather a sharing of the music in our hearts. You are welcome to come forward to share your personal celebration, concern, or sorrow with us.

Please introduce yourself and speak clearly – We ask that you use the microphone to include those who are hard of hearing or seated in the far corners of the room.

[*Community sharing of joys & concerns*]

A*dd a pebble for unspoken joys and concerns on people’s minds …. Phrase this in your own words before continuing.*

*There are several ways to conclude joys and concerns. Choose one or write your own.*

*Alternative 1*

Let us hold in our hearts the joys and sorrows of those who spoke today and of the whole company of humanity. Let us strive to grow in compassion and to extend ourselves to a widening definition of community. *Conclude with* So may it be *or* amen *or both* *as is your preference*.

*Alternative 2*

Let us hold in our hearts all the joys and sorrows given voice this morning. As members of one human family, let us grieve or rejoice with our friends who have spoken.

Let us remember those who are not here, whose claim on our compassion and concern is as real, and whose joys and sorrows are as great. Let us pledge ourselves to grow in compassion, to help each other as we are able, and to embrace this world.

*Alternative 3* May we take a moment to silently contemplate, meditate, or give a prayer for the joys and concerns among all gathered, both spoken and unspoken. [*Pause.*] May we find peace, wisdom, joy, and compassion along the way in our journeys. So may it be.

**Possibly include some moments of silence here**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*Introduce the offering in any way that is comfortable to you. # 672-676 in the hymnal offer possibilities for introducing the offering. Also, there are possibilities in Soul Matters. The language below is just one suggestion.*

*On the 3rd Sunday of each month our offering is designated for a local social agency. Look in the bulletin to see who you should mention. If the information is not in the bulletin, check the list on the bulletin board above the administrator’s desk in the office.*

*Distribute the 3 baskets that are under the podium.*

*A possible introduction to the offering:*

As a religious community we encourage each other to grow more generous in spirit and in action. Those gathered here support this self-supporting church and its ministries. Now we invite your offering, freely given and gratefully received.

*The offering will be brought back to you by a member of the Finance Committee as the collection response is sung. Stand and hold it until the offertory response is complete. Then place it under the podium. (A member of the Finance Committee will pick it up after the service.)*

[**Collection and response**] *Our regular accompanist will cue the response herself. Sing it through one time.*

 From you I receive,

To you I give.

Together we share.

And from this we live.

 **HYMN:** Join me now in singing Hymn # *number, title.*

*The speaker needs to begin by 11am in order for the service to end by 11:30.*

**THE DAY’S SPEAKER and THEIR MESSAGE**

*If the speaker was not introduced earlier in the service, do introduce the speaker now in a comfortable and inviting way.*

**COMMUNITY DIALOG**

*If the service is about to run late, omit the community dialogue, inviting members to share their comment or question with the speaker and each other over coffee after the service. When there is time for the community dialogue, ask those who speak to focus their comments in 30-45 seconds so there is opportunity for several to participate.*

**EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE**

Like lighting of the chalice, *read your chalice extinguishing text and extinguish the chalice.*

*This is also a good place to involve others. You may want to ask another person to extinguish the chalice while you read. Or you may wish to ask 2 others to participate, one to read the text and one to extinguish the candle. The participants may be in person or via Zoom.*

**COMMUNITY SENDING FORTH CHORUS**

We do not just leave this place. We are sent forth with the spirit of community within us to share with the world. Please stand and join in singing our Community Sending Forth. The words are posted over the doorways in front of you. *(Hymn #414)*

**COMMUNITY DIALOG CONTINUES**

*If the speaker is available to stay after the service, the Tech Team will set up a Zoom connection in the CLA classroom. The Zoom connection needs to end by 11:50 AM to allow time for the Tech Team to finish their duties by noon.*