



Leaving Mitzrayim

Sunday, April 28th, 2024

Led by Rev. Jason Lydon

*We seek to create a vibrant, inclusive faith community.
We envision a place of sanctuary and spiritual growth.
Together, we aspire to build a just and compassionate world.*



SUNDAY, April 28th, 2024

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Social Justice Ministry

Call to Worship

Ryland Rich

Introit

Chalice Lighting

Rev. Jason Lydon & Marion

Opening Hymn*

#215 Praise to the Living God (verses 1-3)
by Daniel Ben Judah

Words of Covenant*

Ryland Rich

We covenant to build a community that challenges us to grow and empowers us to honor the truth within ourselves. We will be generous with our gifts and honest in our communication, holding faithful to a love that embraces both diversity and conflict. Called by our living tradition, we will nurture spirituality within a vision of the eternal, living out our inner convictions through struggles for justice and acts of compassion.

Response*

#123 Spirit of Life

Spirit of life come unto me
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Time for All Ages

Brittany Morse

Singing the Children Out

Go now in peace.

Go now in peace.

May the spirit of Love surround you

Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

Invitation to Giving Rev. Jason Lydon

Offertory Words Ryland Rich

This church is the community of ourselves. Its energy and resources are our energy and resources. Its wealth is what we share. As we contribute to the life of this community, we affirm it and enable its participation in the larger world around us.

Offertory

**Pastoral Prayer
& Meditation** Rev. Jason Lydon

**Candles of
Joys & Concerns** Rev. Jason Lydon

Reading excerpt from “Leaving the Egypt Within” by
Mendel Kalmenson and Zalman Abraham

Reading Dayenu by Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg

Song *Circle ‘Round for Freedom* by Linda Hirshhorn

Sermon “Leaving Mitzrayim,” Rev. Jason Lydon

Closing Hymn* #146 *Soon the Day Will Arrive* by Ehud Manor
and Nurit Hirsch

Benediction* Rev. Jason Lydon

**Please rise in body or spirit*

A Warm Welcome

We welcome you! As Unitarian Universalists, we offer a spiritual home for people who seek liberal religion in a caring community. We seek to create a community of connection to deepen our spiritual lives and share in the work to transform the world. Whoever you are, however, you arrived here, you are welcome. We look forward to getting to know you. *–Rev. Jason Lydon*

Today's Worship Team

Our worship today is led by Rev. Jason Lydon along with Ryland Rich as Worship Associate. Music is provided by Tyese Braslavsky and members of the 2U Choir. 2U's tech team includes our Digital Media Producer, Joey LeBlanc, Harris McKee, Dan Ashley, and Ricardo Rivera. We thank them all for their ongoing service.

New Visitors

We are delighted to welcome you to Second Unitarian Church of Chicago (2U), where we seek to create a vibrant, inclusive faith community. Finding a new community and making new connections can be challenging. Please know that we're excited to have you and look forward to getting to know you.

Kids & Families

Our caring and qualified staff, along with dedicated volunteers, create a warm and nurturing environment for your infants and toddlers in the Green Caterpillar Room, just off the Palmer Room outside the sanctuary. Please check in at the Welcome Table, receive your child's name tag, and drop them off ten minutes before the service begins.

Accessibility

Earmuff-style noise canceling headphones for both adults and children are now available for use for services or events, as well as hearing assistance devices. Please see our tech team in the back of the Sanctuary for more info. Email AIM@secondunitarian.org if you or someone you know would benefit from a braille copy of the Singing the Living Tradition hymnal.

Notes on Song *Circle 'Round for Freedom* by Linda Hirshhorn

Written by Jewish songwriter, cantor, and activist Linda Hirshhorn, *Circle 'Round for Freedom* has been sung at countless protests, and worship services. It is a song of liberation and a prayer for the future.

Circle 'round for freedom, circle 'round for peace.

For all of us imprisoned, circle for release.

Circle for the planet, circle for each soul.

*For the children of our children,
keep the circle whole.*

Attendance

We consistently see great numbers each Sunday in-person at 2U and The Admiral at the Lake, as well as virtually on Zoom! Last Sunday, we had 94 in attendance at 2U, 12 at The Admiral at The Lake, and 25 on Zoom! Together, we continue to create a warm and welcoming environment where everyone is valued and celebrated.

Your Life is Sacred & Valuable

If you need immediate support, please reach out. Here are phone numbers that may be helpful in times of need:

- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988
- Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233
- Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline: 888-293-2080

Sharing Milestones

As occasions arise, we send out an email noting the important life passages of our members to our members, including births, deaths, illnesses, marriages, moves, graduations, and other milestones. If you would like to inform the congregation of an important event in your life, email passages@secondunitarian.org with the information you would like to include.

Monthly Collection Plate: Little Village Environmental Justice Organization



We're currently sharing our plate with Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO), founded in 1994. LVEJO's mission is to achieve environmental justice and self-determination for immigrant, low-income, and working-class families.

Text Giving: Text "Give" to 773-900-5669 to donate to our collection plate from your phone. When you text to this number for the first time, you will be prompted to enter your payment details.

Once you have given your information, simply text "Give," and the dollar amount you wish to donate. *Please Note: this number is strictly for the collection plate and will not count toward your pledge.*

Web Giving: Pay one time or set up a recurring payment with your credit card or bank account by going to: secondunitarian.breezechms.com/give/online.

Announcements

New Member Orientation – TODAY after service



Thinking about becoming a member? 2U's Spring Orientation is for those pursuing membership at Second Unitarian or wanting to know more about Unitarian Universalism, 2U history, getting involved, and governance. Part 2 of our 3-part series is today at 12pm in Fleishman. Part 3 will take place May 12th, both in-person and via Zoom. Scan QR Code to sign up. For more info, contact Judy Corbeille.

Kids, Families & Teachers Planting Party – TODAY after service

Join us for a joyful Planting Party in the serene back garden following today's service, designed for kids, families, and RE teachers alike. Delight in the experience as little ones get their hands dirty planting seeds in small pots filled with rich soil. Every child will have the opportunity to nurture their own plant and bring a piece of nature home with them, fostering a love for gardening and the natural world. Let's cultivate memories and watch as these seeds blossom into beautiful flowers together!

Visit the 2U Library TODAY!

Did you know that our library is home to over 2,600 books? Dive into a world of knowledge and adventure with our vast collection, covering everything from religion to philosophy, Paganism to cookbooks, and beyond! Feel free to self-checkout a book, and if you need assistance locating a specific title, simply whip out your cell phone and access our online catalog on our website under 'About,' then click on 'Our Library.' Give our online catalog a whirl with a search term like 'Cooking' and let us know what fascinating discoveries you make! Happy reading!

Sunday Service at First Unitarian Church – May 5th

Join Second Unitarian Church and First Unitarian Church as we come together for a special collaborative service on Sunday, May 5th at 10:00am (not 10:30am) at First U in Hyde Park. This unique service marks a beautiful union of our congregations. Experience the harmony of our combined choirs as they lift their voices in unison, filling the sanctuary with melodies of unity and inspiration. For those unable to attend in person, join us via Zoom as we stream the service live, bringing the spirit of community directly to you. Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to celebrate community, connection, and shared values with friends old and new.

The Night Ministry Meal Prep – May 5th

Join 2U's collaboration with the Night Ministry to provide a meal to LGBTQ+ youth! Volunteers are needed to help prep and cook dinner for The Crib, a safe and supportive overnight emergency shelter for young adults ages 18 through 24. We will meet in 2U's kitchen from 5:30-8:00pm on Sunday, May 5th. Ingredients and recipes will be provided. For more info or to sign up to help, email Leiszle.LappingCarr@gmail.com.

Beltane Ritual – May 5th

Beltane is the first of the Three Fire Festivals! Fire, fertility, the Fae and the energies of the Goddess and the Greenman. Join us for an online Ritual Sunday May 5th at 7pm to celebrate the transformation of the season in nature and spirit in stories and songs. Please bring a sacred flame (candle, electric or visualized) to ignite your personal Bel-Fire as well as some colorful scarves or fabric to honor the ribbons of the Maypole. Visit our website calendar to join via Zoom.

Chicago Community Jail Support – May 6th & May 20th

Join 2U's Social Justice Ministries as an on-the-ground volunteer with Chicago Community Jail Support, a daily grassroots mutual aid project to assist those being released from Cook County Jail. Upcoming volunteer shifts are on Mondays, May 6th and May 20th from 5:30-8pm, at 27th & California. Shared rides to and from can be arranged. Email Eli@EliSander.com for more info and to join.

“Praying for Abolition” Lecture by Rev. Jason Lydon – May 9th

Join us for an enlightening lecture by Rev. Jason Lydon titled "Praying for Abolition" on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Second Unitarian Church and streaming via Zoom. Whether online or in person, expect a thought-provoking discussion! As part of the Minns 2024 Series, this event delves into theology and social justice, with Rev. J addressing the violent theological underpinnings and racism within the prison system, exploring the imperative for prison abolitionism among Unitarian Universalists.

Children’s Sunday Service – June 2nd

Join us Sunday, June 2nd for a heartwarming service led by our talented children! Our Sunday service will be a testament to youthful creativity and spiritual energy as the children take the helm, curating songs, readings, and more. Experience the joy and inspiration as they share their unique perspectives and gifts with our community. Don't miss this special service filled with innocence, wonder, and the boundless spirit of youth. All are welcome to join us for this unforgettable experience!

UU Parents Book Club – June 2nd

Brittany Morse invites you to join a book discussion group focusing on “Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting” by Michelle Richards on Sunday, June 2nd at 12:15pm in the 2U Library. Although this is a book about parenting, all are welcome to join! If you plan to participate, please acquire a copy of the book, or let Brittany know if you would like assistance locating one. An RSVP to Brittany Morse at Brittany.Morse@gmail.com is helpful, but not required. Childcare will be provided.

“This I Believe” Service – June 23rd

On June 23rd, 2U will have a traditional "This I Believe" worship service to celebrate the plurality of religious beliefs we hold here at Second Unitarian. The sermon will be split into 4 parts, each delivered by a different member of 2U. Pip Paris will share a Pagan/Heathen perspective, we are looking for 3 other people with a diversity of other religious perspectives. If you might be interested in participating (writing and preaching coaching will be provided), please email Pip Paris (pipollieparis@gmail.com) or Curtis Smith (cmwright123@outlook.com).

Stay Connected

Want to dive deeper into our community and keep up with the latest news, events, and announcements? Subscribe to our email updates for exclusive insights and timely reminders straight to your inbox. Plus, join the conversation on our social media platforms! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date on everything going on at 2U. Don't miss out on any of the excitement and inspiration – join us online and in-person to journey together! Visit SecondUnitarian.org/Stay-Connected for more info.

Our Digital Sanctuary

Did you miss last Sunday? Eager to revisit an especially inspiring sermon? Dive into the wisdom and inspiration of our services from the comfort of your own home! Our YouTube channel is your digital sanctuary for catching up on all the enlightening messages you might have missed, ensuring your spiritual journey stays uninterrupted. Subscribe to our channel at youtube.com/@SecondUnitarian.

Visit Our Website

As you may have noticed, our new website is nearly complete! This redesign aims to provide easier navigation, quicker access to resources, and a more engaging platform for all our activities and events. Stay tuned as we put the finishing touches on each Committee and Ministry's webpages. Visit us at www.SecondUnitarian.org now to see the exciting changes!

Our Principles and Sources as UUs



We affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part;
8. Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

The living traditions we share draw from many sources:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Learn more about what Unitarian Universalists believe:
uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe

Our Symbols and History

Land Acknowledgement

2U resides on the traditional homelands of the Three Fires Confederacy: Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. This region has long been a center for Indigenous people to gather, trade, and maintain kinship ties. Today, one of the largest urban American Indian communities in the United States resides in Chicago.

We acknowledge that settler colonialism is not just an event of the past but an ongoing reality that we commit to learn about and challenge. See Chi-Nations Youth Council or the American Indian Center of Chicago for more info.



Our Logo



We incorporate two powerful symbols into our identity: the flaming chalice emblem of Unitarian Universalism and the historic anvil once owned by our founding minister, Rev. Robert Collyer.

Rev. Collyer's journey from a humble blacksmith's apprentice in Yorkshire, England, to his pivotal role in our congregation is a testament to the rich tapestry of our history. In an era where most Unitarian preachers hailed from privileged backgrounds, Rev. Collyer's working-class roots resonated deeply with our early members. This connection led them to acquire his cherished Yorkshire anvil, a poignant relic that endured the ravages of the Chicago fire, symbolizing resilience, and continuity.

During WWII, the Unitarian Service Committee adopted the flaming chalice as a beacon of hope and solidarity for those fleeing persecution. This symbol transcends religious boundaries, embodying the spirit of sharing and universal love. Its flame symbolizes not only power but also the resilience necessary to withstand adversity, offering solace in times of turmoil and strife.

Seymour Fleishman's original logo, updated by Ellen Rockett, captures the essence of our values. The chalice adorning our chancel was crafted by Libby Harvey-Hill. Lew Harding's skillful construction of the wood pedestal and anvil cabinet completes this tribute, showcasing the talents and dedication of our community.

Connect With Us

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