

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist

Commissioning Our Religious Education Volunteers

LEIA: Thank you for your commitment to this church, to our shared values, and especially for your commitment to our children and youth. You have accepted the responsibility of helping our children and youth grow and develop within our community. The enthusiasm you show toward them, this church and Unitarian Universalism will help their minds and spirits grow. We acknowledge the responsibilities you have accepted and respect the commitments you have made. The time you spend teaching, caring for, and being with the children and youth of this community is a special ministry.

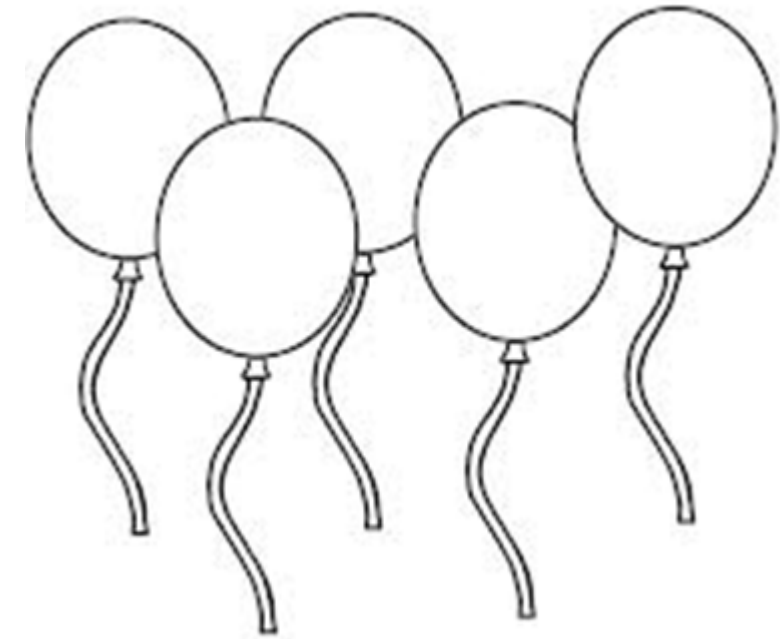
PARENTS: We appreciate your gifts of time and attention for our children and youth. As you guide them, you will be their role models. More than any formal lesson, our children will learn about who we are and what we believe by your treatment of them and each other. We thank you for your loving care.

CHILDREN & YOUTH: Thank you for being our teachers. We look forward to spending time with you, having fun with you, and learning with you. We ask that you to treat us kindly and with respect.

RE TEACHERS & YOUTH ADVISORS: We accept the responsibilities of working with our children and youth. We promise to bring our enthusiasm, talents, and energies to help them grow in wise and loving ways. We ask you for support in this endeavor. Be there when we need help. Listen when we need your ear. Include us in the life of our church community.

CONGREGATION: We acknowledge and honor the work of the RE teachers and advisors in our community. We know this work is important and is not something that can be done alone. We are all teachers and learners. We are here to support and help, each in our own way.

ALL: This is the beginning of a new year of learning. We are all part of this one community—children and adults alike. May we grow and be enriched by our time together.



Balloon Sunday
September 11, 2016
10:00 am

This month we're asking: *What does it mean to be a community of covenant?*

SOUNDING THE CHIME

WELCOME

In order to create the beloved community we all desire for ourselves, we, the Congregation of Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist covenant to:

- Communicate with compassion and respect, especially when we disagree,
- Celebrate diversity and nurture our inclusivity,
- Embrace one another spiritually and emotionally,
- Promote social justice within our congregation and the larger community,
- Generously support the ministries of the church with time, money and enthusiasm, and
- When we have fallen short, lovingly call each other back into covenant.

LIGHTING THE CHALICE

We light this chalice to celebrate Unitarian Universalism.
This is the church of the open mind.
This is the church of helping hands.
This is the church of the loving heart.

PRELUDE & A MOMENT TO REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

FIRST REFLECTION: Leia Durland-Jones

MUSICAL RESPONSE

SECOND REFLECTION: Julia Landis

MUSICAL RESPONSE

RECOGNIZING OUR CHILDREN'S WORSHIP GRADUATES

Luke Anderson • Jon-Michael Benedict • Rowan Eckhart • Benny Edelson • Audrey Gresser-Oldham • Conrad Heins • Jack Megonigal • Darius Mehta • Alden Moyer • Erin Sanders • Thea Spitzner • Max Sweet • Leo Williams

ANTHEM: "Our Sacred Home," by Lucy Holstedt (TJMC Choir)
(See Order of Service Insert back page for lyrics)

THIRD REFLECTION: AnnaLee Durland-Jones

MUSICAL RESPONSE

COMMISSIONING OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS

MUSICAL RESPONSE

FOURTH REFLECTION: Rev. Wik Wikstrom

OFFERTORY AND EXTENDING OUR COMMUNITY

PRAYER

MUSICAL RESPONSE

RELEASING OUR HOPES, WISHES, AND BALLOONS

BENEDICTION & EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

POSTLUDE

Ushers: Elizabeth Breedon and George Maris



“Our Sacred Home,” by Lucy Holstedt

Verse 1:

Our sacred home is made of stone:
Bones of the earth,
Ancient stardust of Creation;
Enduring strength.

Verse 2:

Our sacred home is made of wood:
Nature's design,
Ever growing, skyward reaching;
Beauty and grace.

Bridge 1:

And the flame of our chalice is the sun's burning light
It's the fire of inspiration, and
gift of inner sight.

Verse 3:

Our sacred home is made of air:
Song of the wind,
Whispered prayers and chanted rhythms;
The breath of life.

Bridge 2:

And the water that we carry is our lifeblood and our tears.
It's the ocean of our beginnings, and the Source that will endure.

Verse 4:

Our sacred home is made of dreams
and history,
Loving spirits, common vision:
All that we are,
In this, Our Sacred Home.