



Unitarian Universalist
Church of Charlotte

DISCOVER DEEPER SPIRITUAL MEANING

BRIDGES

—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2017—

“Religion does, indeed, bind together: It binds meaning to events; it binds a community to a sense of purpose, which makes us each feel we belong. It binds us to something bigger than just ourselves.”

—Mary K. Isaacs

ORDER OF SERVICE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2017

+Opening Music *Bridge Over Troubled Water* by Paul Simon

Opening Words Melanie Greely, Guest Speaker

+*Opening Song 347 [Gray Hymnal] *Gather the Spirit*

***Chalice Lighting Words** Rachel Pepper, Guest Speaker

+*Chorus by Marion Franklin Ham

*As tranquil streams that meet and merge
And flow as one to seek the sea,
Our kindred hearts and minds unite
To build a church that shall be free—*

*A freedom that reveres the past,
But trusts the dawning future more;
And bids the soul, in search of truth,
Adventure boldly and explore.*

Welcome Erin Maness, Guest Speaker

Reading “The Bridge Builder” by Will Allen Dromgoole

Reflection Melanie Greely

Reading from the writings of Marion Franklin Ham

Reflection Erin Maness

+*Song 354 [Gray Hymnal] *We Laugh, We Cry*

Reading from Celine Dion

Reflection Rachel Pepper

Reading from *This Census-Taker* by China Miéville

Reflection Emily Katz, Guest Speaker

Musical Offering *Hallelujah*

by Leonard Cohen,
Arranged by Mark Brymer

Hallelujah.

*I've heard there was a secret chord
That David played, and it pleased the Lord.
But you don't really care for music, do ya?*

*It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift,
The baffled king composing Hallelujah.
Hallelujah.*

*Maybe I've been here before,
I know this room; and I've walked this floor.
I used to live alone before I knew ya.
I've seen your flag on the marble arch
But love is not a vict'ry march.
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah.*

*I did my best, it wasn't much
I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch.
I told the truth, I didn't come to fool ya.
And even though it all went wrong
I'll stand before the Lord of Song
With nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah.
Hallelujah.*

Concerns of the Congregation

Meditation and Aspiration

Offering Words

Music *Bridge of Dreams*

by David Lanz

*Our respectful silence honors those who light candles
of celebrations, concerns, or remembrances at this time.*

***An Affirmation of our Faith**

by Eileen B. Karpeles

Out of wood and stone,
out of dreams and sacrifice,
the People build a home.
Out of the work of
their hands and hearts and minds
the People fashion a symbol
and a reality.

Congregation:

*May this house be truly
a place of Meeting—
meeting one with another
in warmth and joy and openness;
meeting one with another
in courage and love and trust.*

May all who enter here
trust one another so surely
that they dare to share the deep fires
that burst into anger
as much as the sweet springwaters
that swell into laughter;
the slow erosion of wounded tears
as much as the soaring song.

Congregation:

*May these walls know silence
as a hundred hearts search inward
each for its own small spark of hope
that might otherwise
be snuffed out in the noise.*

May these rafters hear the voice of the child
as surely as that of the orator,
and the sound of the lute,
the clack of the typewriter,
the swish of the broom,
and know that all are as holy
as the shout of a million stars.

Congregation:

*May the rain fall lightly on this house,
the sun shine warmly,
the winds blow softly,
and bless it
as a place of joy and peace.*

***Song** 1021 [Teal Hymnal] *Lean on Me*

***Closing Words
and Extinguishing the Chalice**

Closing Music *Amazing Grace*

Traditional, arranged by Paul Wilson

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.*

*'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear and Grace my fears
relieved.*

How precious did that Grace appear the hour I first believed!

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come
'Twas Grace that brought us safe thus far and Grace will lead us
home.*

NOTES

Thank you to the pledging members of this congregation whose generosity makes our Sunday services possible. Kathleen Carpenter, Melanie Greely, John Herrick, Emily Katz, Erin Maness and Rachel Pepper contributed to the planning of this service. John Herrick plays the piano. John Herrick plays the piano. Donna Fisher, Mary Hackenberg, Lisa Lackey, Judy Love, and Wendy Pond sing the musical offering and closing music. Ben Gatti, Fred Hutchinson and Doug Swaim assist with A/V for today's services. Large print copies of the Order of Service and personal hearing assistance devices are available on the table at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

Images displayed in today's service include: **1.** photograph by John Herrick **2.** photograph by Barry Plott **4.** photograph by Gianni Crestani **5.** photograph by Melanie Greely **6.** photograph by Erin Maness **7.** Photograph by Logga Wiggler **8.** Photograph by Mario Fumagalli **9.** photograph, courtesy of Emily Katz **10, 11.** photographs by Henryk Niestrój **12, 16.** unattributed photographs, Pixabay **17.** photograph by Yasemin Avun