

FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY BROOKLYN

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

WHOEVER YOU ARE

Whoever you are
Whomever you love
Wherever you are on your life journey
You are welcome here.

SONG OF HOPE

From all that dwell below the skies
Let songs of hope and faith arise.
Let peace, good will on earth be sung
Through every land by every tongue.

CHALICE EXTINGUISHING

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.
-Elizabeth Selle Jones

LIGHTING THE CHALICE

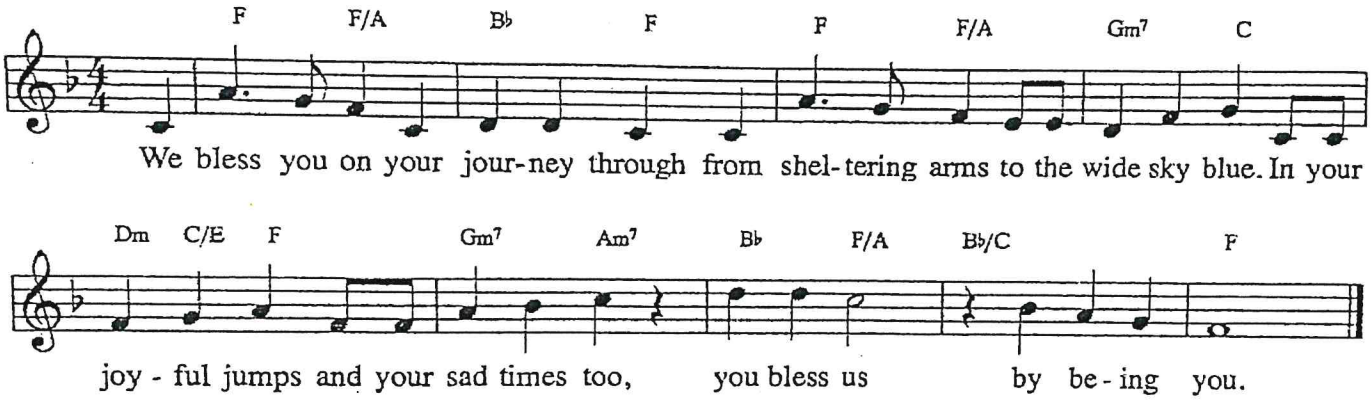
Read Responsively:

Blessed is the fire of our faith,
and the chalice of our community;
Blessed is the living tradition that is carried forward in our work and in our love

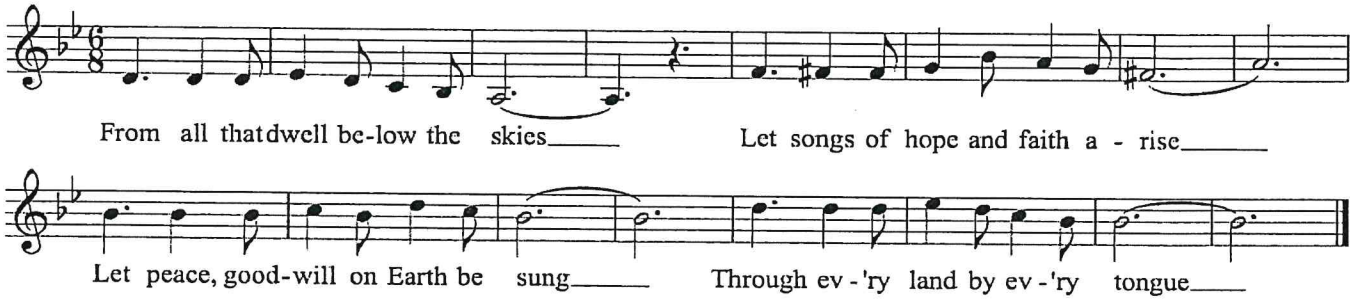
Blessed is the transient flame we kindle here;
Blessed is the illuminated moment of our gathering.

Blessed is the light of the eternal;
Blessed is the sacred call of life to which we give ourselves in answer.

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL



SONG OF HOPE FOR JAZZ SUNDAY



November 29, 2026

Simple Gifts: Making Mindful Holidays

Welcome to First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, where we are exploring themes of *generosity* and *groundedness* through words, music, silence, prayer, and community.

Gathering

♪ **Gathering Music**

During this gathering time, let's sing together, creating warm, sacred space. We stand, sit, and dance as we feel moved, and we may light candles to bring our private prayers into the sanctuary.

♪ **In the Bleak Midwinter** (#241)

♪ **Whoever You Are** (inside cover)

Chalice Lighting (inside cover)

♪ **Song of Hope** (inside cover)

Greeting

Deepening

Wisdom Story | *What if We Were All Generous?* by C. M. Harris
Illustrated by Vitor Lopes

Children's Blessing & Recessional (inside cover)

Silent Meditation & Prayer

Candle Lighting

♪ ***Green*** Words by Peter Mayer / Traditional French melody

Sermon

♪ **'Tis a Gift to Be Simple** (#16)

Connecting

Offering

♪ ***Count Your Blessings*** *(Instead of Sheep)* by Irving Berlin

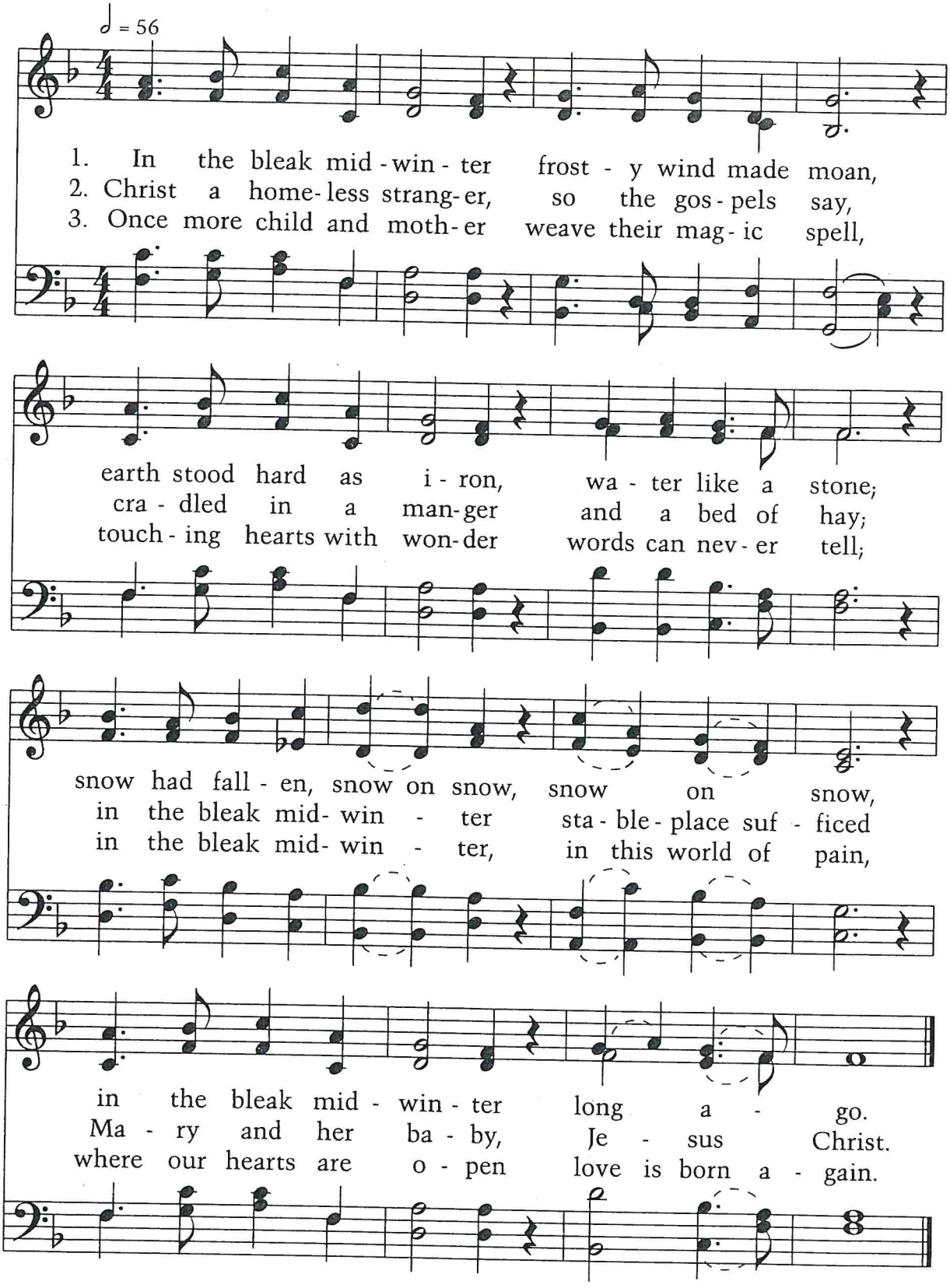
Announcements

♪ **Let There Be Peace on Earth** (insert)

Chalice Extinguishing (inside cover)

Benediction

In the Bleak Midwinter 241

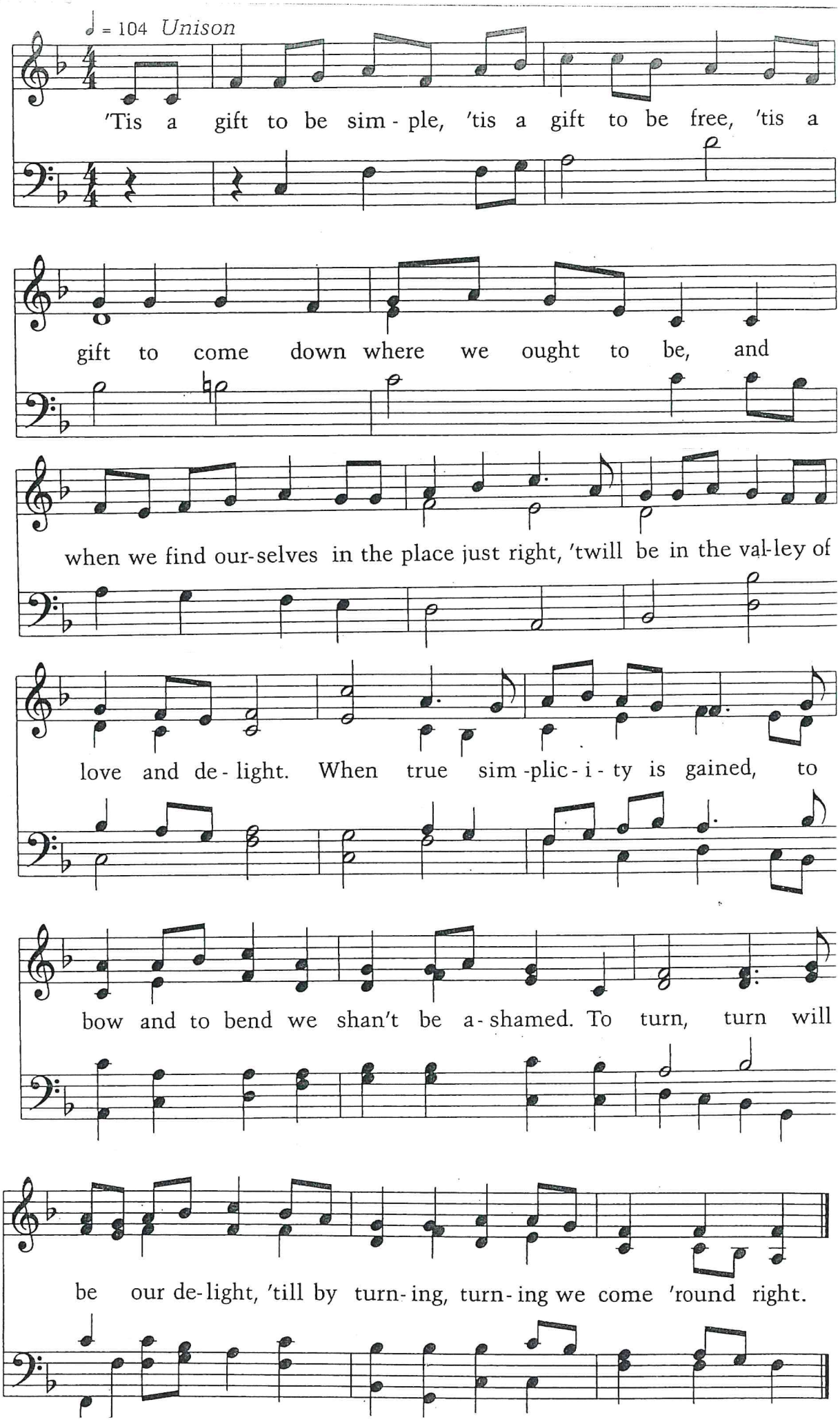


Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
⊕ New words by John Andrew Storey, 1935–
Music: Gustav Theodore Holst, 1874–1934

CRANHAM
6.5.6.5.D.

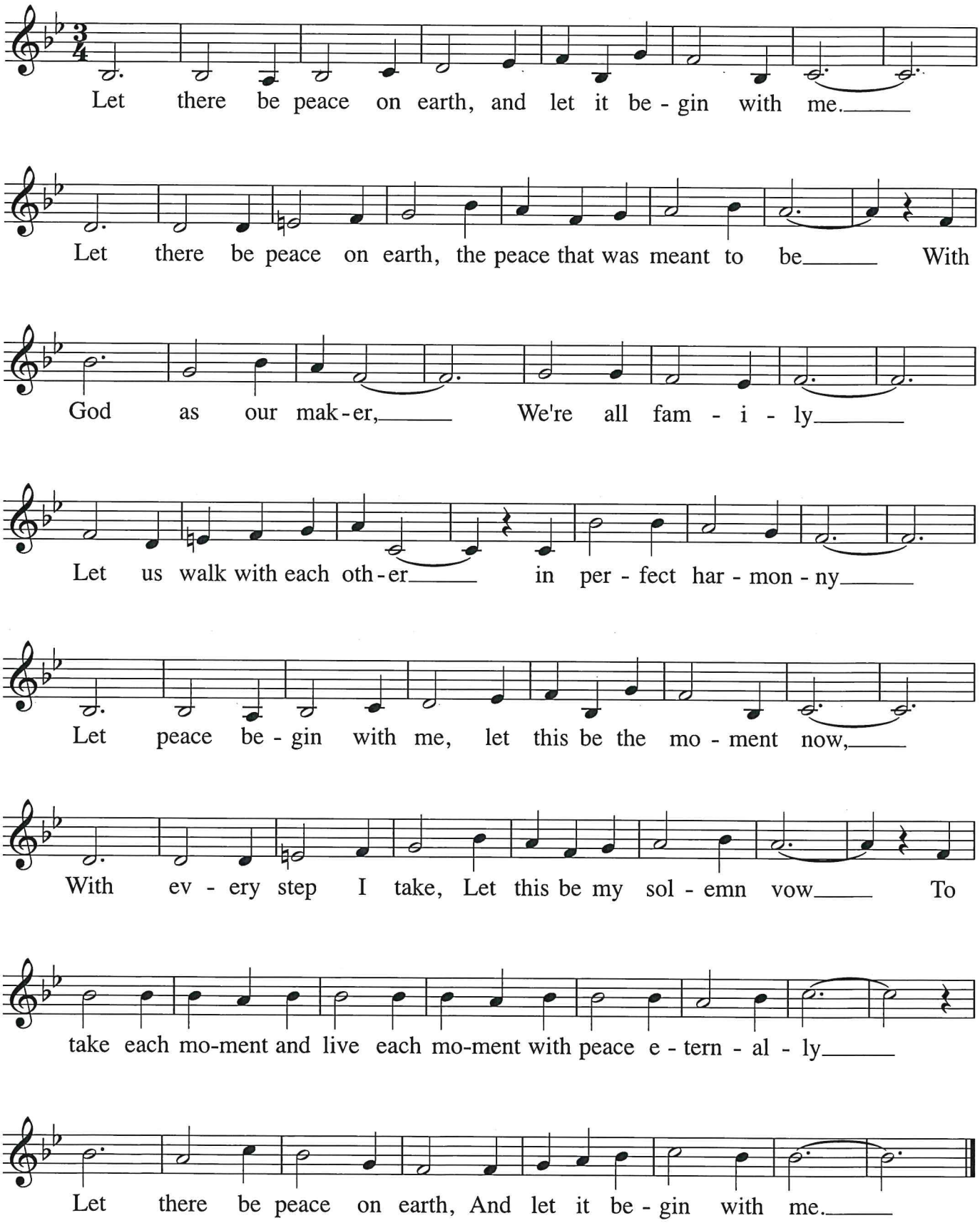
16

'Tis a Gift to Be Simple



LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson



Worship Leader: Rev. Lissa Gundlach
Wisdom Story: Elizabeth Ann Terry, Director of Religious Education
Music: Adam Podd
Announcements: Tyrone Davis, Jr., Membership Coordinator

Worship Associate: Ginny Fahs
Lay Pastoral Minister: Edwin Lord
Livestream Producer: Lukas Bauer
Online Host: Charlotte Hoogenboom
Connections Table Host(s): Charles Lynch & Vicki Antonini, Board Trustee

Notes:

Mystical Reading by Alberto Rios

Rev. Lissa Gundlach serves as the Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach, CA. Rev. Lissa has served UUCLB since 2020, creating a vibrantly diverse and inclusive Unitarian Universalist beloved community, bringing joy and commitment to her ministry. She is a New England native and lifelong Unitarian Universalist. Before being called to UUCLB, Rev. Lissa served as minister at Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church and Congregational Life at All Souls, New York City. She lived in Brooklyn for 12 years and is delighted to return to First Unitarian Universalist Brooklyn, her spiritual home while in school at Union Theological Seminary.

Music Notes:

Kiena Williams, soloist (*Count Your Blessings*)

Today in Religious Education:

Nursery, Toddler, Pre-K / 11 -12:30 PM, drop-off to 50 Monroe Classroom. Pick up after service.

Grades K-8 / Sunday Funday!

HS Youth Group, Grades 9-12, 12:30-1:30, Third Floor Teen Room

Your child/children must be registered in order to participate in our programs. Use the QR code above to register your child today!

All are invited for fellowship in the undercroft, following the service.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Today at First Unitarian:

Thanksgiving Potluck 1:00-3:00 in the Undercroft.
Please drop off your shared dish to the Kitchen to keep it chilled in the fridge, warmed in the oven, or safe and covered on the counters.

UniFair sorting, 2:00-4:00 pm in the Undercroft!

Looking Forward:

Thursday, December 3, 6:30–8:00 pm, *BIPOC Spiritual Group* — on Zoom
The BIPOC Spiritual Group gathers Thursday, December 3, 6:30–8:00 pm on Zoom. It's an affinity space for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in the congregation — an evening of reflection and conversation.
Contact Tyrone Davis at ***tyrone@firstubrooklyn.org*** for the Zoom link.

Saturday, December 5, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, *MINI UniFair!*

Please bring your donations for boutique and jewelry only on Sunday the 29th in the undercroft. (We cannot accept or store other items. Save them for 2027!) This year's UniFair will include baked goods, wreaths, jewelry, and boutique goods. Mark your calendar for 12/5 and plan to stop by 10:00 am-3:00 pm for your annual dose of merriment. We would love your help! Sign up with the QR code! The more the merrier!

Sunday, December 6, right after the service, *Bring a Friend / Meet a Friend*
Know someone who's been curious about First U? Bring them with you on Sunday, December 6 — and stay for a brief Meet a Friend, our hosted small-group conversation, before heading to coffee hour. Facilitators will guide a few easy questions — a short, intentional way to actually meet and get to know your fellow congregants and newcomers. All are welcome!

Guest at Your Table
Support our partners with UUSC's longest-running program for congregations. For half a century and counting, UUSC has worked with faith communities across the country to bring our partners' stories and experiences to your family table. The long-running Guest at Your Table program is a chance to learn about our partners' work and support our shared efforts to advance human rights.

We still have a few spaces open for *Soul Matters* participants on Wednesday evening at First U, 6:30-8:30 pm. Each month, you'll receive a reflection guide with thoughtful questions, readings, and exercises to explore at your own pace before we gather to share, honor each other's stories, and grow together. Please email ***elizabeth.zehe@gmail.com*** if you're interested.

If you receive an email from Rev. Micah requesting money, do not open it, click on any link, or send anything. Someone used Reverend Ma's illness as a cover and tried to email one of our congregants, urging them to send a $200 Amazon gift card to someone else in his name. We checked with Reverend Ma, and it is a scam.
If in doubt, please contact Wendy in the office at wendy@firstubrooklyn.org.

Share the Plate: The Miriam Campobasso Fund

The Miriam Campobasso Fund makes grants to any woman who meets the following criteria: has a medical issue, the treatment of which is creating an emotional, financial, or logistical drain; is a member of the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn or of the Women's Leadership Alliance; and has a specific financial need.

The fund was created in memory of Miriam Campobasso, a longtime member of First U and the Women's Leadership Alliance. As of 2026, our funds are at a historic low, and we need support from the First U community to maintain our mission.

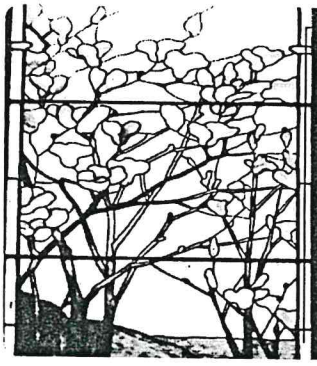
First Unitarian receives donations with gratitude.
Scan the QR code to the left to be taken directly to our online portal. You may drop checks payable to First Unitarian or cash in the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity.

The Holidays are right around the corner. Save these dates. More info soon.

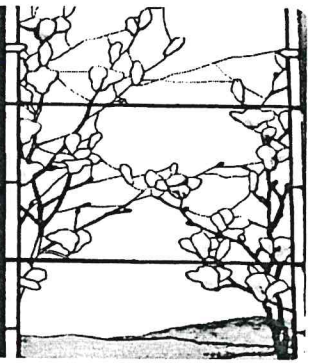


December 20th ~ Children's Pageant
December 21st ~ Winter Solstice
December 24th ~ Family Service
December 24th ~ Candlelight Service





The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn is a joyful, loving, religious community that inspires and empowers people to Grow spiritually, Care for one another, and Work for social justice and stewardship of the earth.



Unitarian Universalist Values and Covenant
As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our **shared values.** We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Our congregation is located on a hill near a place where two waterways join and empty into the Atlantic Ocean.

We honor with gratitude the land and the Lenape people who cared for it through many generations. We acknowledge the contributions and experiences of Native peoples, and in tribute to them, pay homage, and strive to learn how to be in better relationship with the earth we all inhabit.

In order to reduce our use of paper, this order of service cover is re-used. If there's information you need, feel free to take it with you. Otherwise, please leave it in your pew.

At First U, it's very important to us that we care for one another.
After the service a member of our Caring Ministry will be in the Chapel of All Faiths.
If you are going through a hard time, we invite you to come and connect with them.
We very much want to hear from you.

Donations to First Unitarian are received with gratitude.
Scan the QR code to the left to be taken directly to our online portal.
Checks or cash may be dropped in the offering plate.
Thank you for your generosity.

FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY BROOKLYN

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

CONGREGATION ORGANIZED IN 1833 BUILDING DEDICATED IN 1844

CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Micah C. Ma, micah@firstubrooklyn.org
Interim Minister

Adam Podd, adam@firstubrooklyn.org
Director of Music

Elizabeth Ann Terry, elizabethann@firstubrooklyn.org
Director of Religious Education

Renee Strickland, renee@firstubrooklyn.org
Director of Facilities

John McKeown, john@firstubrooklyn.org
Building Engineer

Wendy Russell, wendy@firstubrooklyn.org
Congregational Administrator

Bobby Blackman, bobby@firstubrooklyn.org
Sexton

Tyrone Davis, Jr. tyrone@firstubrooklyn.org
Membership Coordinator

Sean Sellers, sean@firstubrooklyn.org
HS Youth Coordinator

Phylisa St. Fleur
Nursery Caregiver

Ruby Stackhouse
Nursery Caregiver

OFFICERS

Board of Trustees Co-Presidents:
Michael Dore, Cyndi Kerr

Trustees:
Vicki Antonini, Robert Brackbill, Anne Calder, Linda Donaldson Guidi, Luke Messina, Amanda Nietzel, Mark Weiss

Clerk of the Society: Todd Ogin

Treasurer: Lee Pardee

Moderator: James Goward

Deacons:
Robert Bero, Thomas Check, Liz Davis, Beth Evans, Patrick Gunn, Laurel Lesio-Eisenstadt, Edwin Lord, Lee Pardee, Nancy Wolf

Senior Deacon: Constance Newsom

Music Director Emeritus: William Peek

Children's Music Director: Bert Eisenstadt

OFFICE

48 Monroe Place
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel (718) 624-5466

***Office Hours*:**
Sunday 9:00-2:00 Mon by appt
Tues-Wed-Thurs |9:30 am–4:00 pm

Office Closed Friday & Saturday

EMAIL: ***info@firstubrooklyn.org***

WEB: ***www.firstubrooklyn.org***

INSTAGRAM: FirstUBrooklyn

YOUTUBE: FirstUnitarianBrooklyn

FACEBOOK:
First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn

GIVE BY TEXT (855) 799-2543