

**“In It Together”
March 22, 2020**

“We are washed by the very same rain....” - Pat Humphries

Music for Gathering

Recording by Shana Aisenberg

Welcome Rev. Betsy Tabor

This morning we explore being in it together – in a new reality of staying connected by staying apart. Pat Humphries’ “anthem to life” came to mind this week, about how we all live “ ‘neath the Great Big Dipper [and]are washed by the very same rain.” She responded at once to our request to sing the song in our service. “We’d be happy for you to use the song, but we’d rather Zoom in and sing it live for you all.” They’ll zoom in to join us soon....

Chalice Lighting

“In this community, we hold hope close.
We don’t always know what comes next...
or just what to do,
but we...are the people
who return to love like a North Star
and to the truth that we are greater together
than we are alone.” - UU Rev. Theresa Soto

Centering “The Water is Wide” Scottish folk (Shana)

Opening Words Andy Davis

Hymn: “How Can I Keep From Singing”

Reading “What to do on Spring Equinox” (author unknown) (Marion)

Compost this poem.
Take out all the words that remind you of winter,
words that slip frozen into the heart,
bare limbs of words that stick into the sky and shake.
Prune out dead wood;
rough ragged never gonna fruit,
done is done!
Pay attention to what is here,
not what isn't.
Send your roots into another row or field or bed.
Mow. Rake up all the grass.
Layer, as if you're expecting hail or a deep frost;
the end of winter is always unpredictable.
Add manure, plenty of manure
and call in the flies, the dung beetles, the worms.

Soon, they'll be heat. Steam.
 The pile will soften, break down, give in, let go.
 Compost winter into spring,
 take off those old clothes you've been wearing,
 the despair like a hat on your head,
 dig into the pile,
 into the heat and the heart of what matters.
 Plant your garden and remember, each year,
 everything will be different;
 compost what you can.

Music “An Irish Jig” Shana Aisenberg

A Time for All Ages Marion Posner

“In It Together” Rev. Betsy Tabor

Hard times remind us that everyone all over the world is in this together, no matter where we are, whom we love, what our bank balances look like. We're in it together no matter our beliefs.

We're in it together in weariness as we constantly discover new things to fret about. Our houses feel like minefields. How many hands have touched these groceries, this mail? And how can we keep up with knobs and railings and all our handles? The kettle, faucets, the fridge, the front door, the gas pump?

We're also in it together in today's unexpected blessings. We *see* more. A child's face. A neighbor's smile. We *hear* more – birdsong, the wind, our heartbeat. We *feel* more, willing to stop and say hello. Feeling open, even affectionate, toward strangers.

You are invited at this time to share aloud moments that have tweaked your fondness for your fellow human. Who else both loves and has had enough of Zoom? Who else has talked with another parent about our kids so far away? [Sharing time.]

Hymn “Wake Now My Senses”

Joys & Concerns (via Chat)

Meditation

We join our hearts in prayer: Today we remember friends and family no longer living at home and not able at this time to have visitors come see them, even family. We hold in the light Phyllis Shepard, Willie Mork, Betty Gordon, Joan Sherman, and Miriam Morell.

We are in it together with them, we too without visitors.

We are with them in worry and sleeplessness, in feeling lonely, no end in sight.

And...always, we give thanks.
 For the company of the brown and grey birds at the feeder,
 for glimpses of green among the dead leaves,
 for this bluebird day.

We are grateful to hear each other's voice and laugh, to see beloved faces.
 We give thanks for drives, walks, and visits over the fence. For restful quiet.

We pray for each other's well-being – everyone here and everyone not here.
 May we have *courage* to face the unknown with hope.
 May we have *strength* to meet the future with a spirited life force.

We pray for good news: stories that lift our spirits, reports of people feeling better, tea online,
 neighborhood kayaking on the horizon.

In the words of Irish monk Richard Hendrick last week, may we “breathe [and may we] listen,
 behind...the worry. The birds are singing again. [Geese are frolicking.] The sky is clearing,
 spring is coming, and we are always encompassed by Love.” May it be so. Blessed be.

The Morning Offering

Now more than ever, UUFES depends on all of us to stay strong financially so that we can
 continue to pay the bills and take care of our hard-working staff. Please send your offering to
 the address on the screen: UUFES, Box 474, Tamworth NH 03886. And thank you for giving
 generously.

Anthem “Give Me Your Hand” 17th c Irish (Shana)

EMMA’S REVOLUTION Our “In It Together” service all started with Sandy O’s rubber
 boots. Sandy O and Pat Humphries *are* Emma’s Revolution. At a rainy retreat a few years
 back, I couldn’t get to the beach – the path was flooded. A stranger waded toward me and said,
 “Here, take *my* boots!” They say you don’t know a person ‘til you’ve walked a mile in their
 boots! Let us welcome Sandy and Pat, Emma’s Revolution!

#1 SONG: “Give Light”

#2 SONG: “Seed”

#3 SONG: “Swimming to the Other Side”

Closing Words

Extinguishing of the Chalice

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.

Benediction

Take courage friends.

The way is often hard, the path is never clear,
and the stakes are very high.

Take courage.

For deep down, there is another truth:

you are not alone. - UU Rev. Wayne Arnason

Thank you for visiting our website. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Recording link, available 3 mos from 3/22:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/rec/share/5OFTMorg0G9JZKvvtUeHQU8Ia77aaa8g3dL-PNeyktfjAp-TVdL85IA1T8ysThq>