



# THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

*Gathered in 1870*

Sunday, September 13, 2020

## **Prelude – “Healing River”**

*Fran Minkoff & Fred Hellerman*

### **Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting**

We light this chalice for the light of truth,  
the warmth of love,  
and the fire of commitment.  
We light this symbol of our faith  
as we gather together.

### **Hymn No. 1007 – “There’s a River Flowin’ in My Soul”**

There’s a river flowin’ in my soul.  
There’s a river flowin’ in my soul.  
And it’s tellin’ me that I’m somebody.  
There’s a river flowin’ in my soul.

There’s a river flowin’ in my heart...

There’s a river flowin’ in my mind...

### **Affirmation**

Love is the doctrine of this church;  
the quest of truth is its sacrament;  
and service is its prayer.  
To dwell together in peace;  
to seek knowledge in freedom;  
to serve humankind in fellowship;  
to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine,—  
thus do we covenant with each other.

### **Doxology**

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.

### **Story for All Ages**

**Children's Song**

May peace surround you, may love surround you  
as you go, as you go, as you go on your way.

**Offertory – “Shenandoah”**

*American folk song, arr. by P. Keveren*

**Reading – “From Blossoms” by Li-Young Lee****Prayer****Interlude – “A Gentle River Runs”**

*Andrea Klouse*

**Sermon****Hymn No. 1064 – “Blue Boat Home”**

Though below me, I feel no motion standing on these mountains and plains.  
Far away from the rolling ocean still my dry land heart can say:  
I've been sailing all my life now, never harbor or port have I known.  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.

Sun my sail and moon my rudder as I ply the starry sea,  
leaning over the edge in wonder, casting questions into the deep.  
Drifting here with my ship's companions, all we kindred pilgrim souls,  
making our way by the lights of the heavens in our beautiful blue boat home.

I give thanks to the waves upholding me, hail the great winds urging me on,  
greet the infinite sea before me, sing the sky my sailor's song:  
I was born up on the fathoms, never harbor or port have I known.  
The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.

**Benediction****Postlude – “Wake Now, My Senses”**

*(Slane) arr. by Todd Monsell*

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*This week's service is led by the Reverend Brian Mason. Julie Trombley is the worship associate.  
And the music is provided by Margaret Jerz on piano and Dänika Kozlovich, vocals.*