

February 19, 2023

Notes from the Music Department

Special thanks go to our Universalist Unitarian Choir for their work done to prepare the music you will hear today. We also thank choir members Amy Grace and mother/daughter duo Kara and Deb Hall for taking time from their very busy lives to lead us in song.

Mark Your Calendars!

Jim Scott, composer, guitarist, singer and activist will present a concert Saturday evening, March 18th celebrating "*The Year to Save the Earth*" followed by a presentation of *Gaia, Mother Earth and the Oneness of Everything* on Sunday morning, March 19. Jim's lifework has been to create and perform music that celebrates peace, justice and the earth. From his work with the Paul Winter Consort where he co-wrote the celebrated *Missa Gaia-Earth Mass* and many other pieces, Jim has gone on to create an extensive body of work that includes seven albums of original music. He compiled and arranged *The Earth and Spirit Songbook*, an anthology of 110 songs of earth and peace written by himself and many contemporary songwriters. Several of his songs are included in our repertory list including today's choir rendition of "*May Your Life Be As a Song*" and our closing congregational hymn "*For the Earth Forever Turning*," one of the songs included in the *Missa Gaia-Earth Mass*.

Jim has been an activist for years with his songs, poetry and short stories that address issues of ecology, justice and peace, all with insight and gentle wit. In 2002, Jim helped create the Unitarian Universalist *Green Sanctuary* program with its accompanying handbook for building ecological/spiritual awareness in church congregations.

"*We Choose Love*" is an original song co-written by Vermont born, Brooklyn based Adam Podd and Canadian- American singer/song-writer Ana Egge. The song was written as an opening worship selection for the First Unitarian Church in Brooklyn, NY and has been sung by many churches, including ours, since.

We Choose Love

As we gather together and we hold in our hearts,
The spirit that unites us,

As we gather together and we hold in our hearts,
The spirit that unites us,
As we gather together and we hold in our hearts,
The spirit that unites us,
We choose love, we choose love, we choose love.

We choose love, love chooses us.
We choose love, love chooses us.

"Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jim Scott (composer and/or arranger of nine (9!) of the hymns in our *Singing the Living Traditions* and *Singing the Journey* hymnals) wrote these lyrics to accompany the music of Russian composer Yuri Zaritsky.

May Your Life Be As a Song

May your life be as a song
Resounding with the dawn to sing awake the light,
And softly serenade the stars,
Ever dancing circles in the night.

After we sing the song in unison, the choir will break into a four part canon (think Row, Row, Row Your Boat). Rather than using the usual method of having each part entering one after the other, we will all start together, each group on a different line. If this sounds complicated, it is. Wish us luck!

Gordon Light, an Anglican bishop based in Canada, and Mark Miller, Professor of Church Music and Composer in Residence at Drew University in Madison, NJ, believe passionately that music can change the world. "Our music reflects a range of concerns including inclusiveness, peace, justice, and personal faith."

Draw the Circle Wide

Gordon Light

Mark Miller

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.

Our enthusiastic UU Adult Choir meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 in our well ventilated atrium. No audition is required - just bring your good ears and a desire to join us in joyous harmonies.

Basic percussion technique building, drum ensembles and songs, games and adventures in music happen each Monday evening, 7:00-8:00, 1005 Steuben St. Wausau. There is no need to bring an instrument - the Drum Haven is full of authentic African and Caribbean drums and small percussion.