

Universalist Unitarian Church of Joliet

Sunday, January 21, 2024 - 10:30 A.M.

"You Are a Child of the Earth"

A Celebration of Lughnasadh or Lammas

Presenters: Susan Urban & Phil Cooper ("February Sky")

*Please feel free to sing at home at any point in the service
where you feel moved to do so!*

Words to all the songs and readings, including congregational songs,
are on the pages following this one.

**RINGING OF THE OPENING CHIME
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME
INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

GATHERING MUSIC & QUARTER CALLING: "The Circle Within the Circle," by
Susan Urban (please stand as able to turn and face the four directions)

OPENING WORDS: Chief Seattle, 1855

***OPENING CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** "Green Man," by Jennifer Cutting (see
below)

LIGHTING THE CHALICE & RESPONSIVE READING: No. 551, "Earth Teach
Me" (or see below)

COVENANT (see below)

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

A time for joys and sorrows of your personal life. So that all may share, please
keep your remarks brief and consider the sacredness of this time.

TIME FOR ALL AGES: Earth My Body Chant (see below)

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC: "Corn Rigs Are Bonnie," Trad. Arr.

MUSIC: "Rowing from Isla to Uist," Trad. Arr.

During the music, please place your Summer gifts from the Earth where they will
be nearby.

GUIDED LAMMAS MEDITATION

SONG: "You Are a Child of the Earth," by Susan Urban

HOMILY: "Holy is This World of Ours"

LAMMAS RITUAL (see below - have a piece of bread, or if preferred, a gluten
free treat, handy for this ritual)

***CLOSING CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** "Earth Goddess Blessing," by Linea
Silas and Susan Urban (see below)

CLOSING WORDS: Pawnee, C. 1900

UNISON CHALICE EXTINGUISHING (see below)

POSTLUDE: "Holy Are The Woods" by Kathryn Morski

THE CIRCLE WITHIN THE CIRCLE (MEDICINE WHEEL SONG)

Susan Urban

We turn to the East where the sun comes up,
To the realm of air we sing.

To the pangs of birth, to the infant's cry,
To the buds and the sprouts of Spring.

To the place of new beginnings,
Where the seeds of hope are sown,

And the circle within the circle goes on and on and on (REPEAT).

We turn to the South where the Sun is bright,
To the realm of fire we sing.

To the flame of youth, to the warmth of love,
To the heat that the Summertime brings.

To the place of work and nurturing,
Where the dream is given form,

And the circle within the circle goes on and on and on (REPEAT).

We turn to the West, where the sun goes down,
To the realm of water we sing.

To the Autumn time, when the fields are ripe,
And we turn to the harvesting.

To the place of satisfaction with the labor we have done,
And the circle within the circle goes on and on and on (REPEAT).

We turn to the North, to the dark of night,
To the realm of Earth we sing.

To the elders and to the time of rest,
When the world is wintering.

To the place of drawing inward
To await the Spring's return,

And the circle within the circle goes on and on and on (REPEAT)

GREEN MAN Jennifer Cutting

Deep within this sacred place, Green Man, King of the Wood
Outlines of an ancient face, Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One
Spirit of the living leaves, Green Man, King of the Wood
In his heart all Nature breathes, Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One
CHORUS:

Green Man, bless this wood, oak and ash and thorn

In Green Man's brotherhood, all will be reborn...all will be reborn
Man may build his castles tall, Green Man, King of the Wood
Time and tide will see them fall, Greenman, Wild Man, Wise One
Thrusting up through crumbling walls, Green Man, King of the Wood
Vines and ivy conquer all, Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One
CHORUS

Once bright holly Christmas Day, Green Man, King of the Wood
Now a flow'ring branch of May, Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One
Soon Midsummer's shelt'ringshade, Green Man, King of the Wood
Turns to autumn's fiery blaze, Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One
CHORUS

When we see the falling leaves, Green Man, King of the Wood
Nature's brethren do not grieve, Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One
Life and death an endless chain, Green Man, King of the Wood
All that falls will rise again, Green Man, Wild Man, Wise One
CHORUS All will be reborn...All...will...be...re-born

LIGHTING THE CHALICE & RESPONSIVE READING:

No. 551, "Earth Teach Me"

Earth teach me stillness as the grasses are stilled with light.

Earth teach me suffering as old stones suffer with memory.

Earth teach me caring as parents who secure their young.

Earth teach me courage as the tree which stands all alone.

Earth teach me limitation as the ant which crawls on the ground.

Earth teach me freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky.

Earth teach me resignation as the leaves which die in the fall.

Earth teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring.

Earth teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life.

Earth teach me to remember kindness as dry fields weep with rain.

COVENANT

Love is the Doctrine of this Church.

Our beliefs are as individual as those who believe.

To learn, to serve, and to live in peace,

This is the flame we carry, this is our Covenant.

Earth My Body Chant

Earth my body

Water my blood

Air my breath

And fire my spirit!

YOU ARE A CHILD OF THE EARTH Susan Urban

When you wake in the morning and breathe in the air,
Give thanks to the green Earth because it is there.

When you're boiling the water for coffee or tea
Give a thought to the rivers, the lakes and the seas.
As you walk out to work on the soft springy ground,
Be grateful for gravity holding you down.

CHORUS 1:

You are a child of the Earth, you are a child of the Earth.

You may honor the mother in all that you see,

You are a child of the Earth, you are a child of the Earth.

When there's one that you love, little matters it that
They be lover or child, dog, bird or cat.

When you look in their eyes with devotion so true,
Recollect that the Earth Spirit brought them to you.

They are atoms and molecules, water and clay
Rearranged in a wondrous and singular way.

CHORUS 2:

She is a child of the Earth, and he is a child of the Earth.

You may honor the mother in all whom you love,

You are a child of the Earth, you are a child of the Earth.

When you watch the sun set on a rose-colored sky,
When the red leaves of autumn are burning your eyes,
When the trees are abloom tender green in the spring,
Tune your heart to the Earth song the ancients did sing.
Tread as soft as you may on your Earth Mother's bones,
That the ones who come after may call her their own.

CHORUS 3:

They will be children of Earth,

Even now they are children of Earth.

You may honor the mother in all that you do,

You are a child of the Earth, you are a child of the Earth,

You are a child of the Earth.

LAMMAS RITUAL

Earth Mother, giver of bread and of blessings, hear this our gratitude for the wealth of the year.

This is a part of all, to thank for all.

Earth Mother, who are also the Lord of the Sun, ripeness and ripener, loam and swollen grain, hear our gratitude for every gift on this first day of harvest of many harvests.

This is a part of all, to thank for all.

Earth Mother, you have made us glad. Having been blessed, we ask the power to bless. With this gift, give us the power to give. This is a part of all to thank for all.

(Consume bread)

As the night is the womb of the day,

And the day of the night,

Each being in each other, so we, together,

Man being present in woman, and woman in man,

Revere and ask a blessing of sacred Earth

On all that is born and dies, that dies and is born,

On all that rises and falls, that falls and rises,

And on ourselves that we may love and be loved in joy and gladness.

So let it be and blessed be!

Blessed be!

EARTH GODDESS BLESSING

Linea Silas/Susan Urban

CHORUS:

By the Earth that is her body, by the air that is her breath,

By the fire that is her bright spirit, by the living waters of her womb,

May the peace of the Goddess be forever in your heart,

The circle is open but unbroken, merry meet and merry part.

May you never know thirst or hunger, may you love with a faithful heart,

May you always walk on ground hallowed by Her forests, lakes and trees.

And if sorrow or sickness find you, may you heal and rise anew,

May your life be long and blessed by the wisdom

Of the Earth that grows and blooms.

CHORUS

May we stand up for our Mother, for it's Her who gives us life,

And the lives of the ones who will come after in the times that we create.

May we keep our sacred promise, seven generations hence

May the seeds of change we now are sowing

Keep the Earth alive for them.

CHORUS

UNISON CHALICE EXTINGUISHING

Carry the Flame of Peace and Love Until We Meet Again

HOLY ARE THE WOODS

Kathryn Morski

Holy are the woods in their mantle of green,
Holy are the vines and the flowers,
And holy are the lives that live there unseen,
Holy is this world of ours.

Holy is the lake in her ice-sculptured lace,
Holy is the first green of Spring,
And holy is the love that shines in a face,
Holiness in everything.

Holy is the void where our planet is set,
Spinning like an opal or pearl.
Oh, help us to recall, help us not to forget,
Holy is our precious world.