

Embracing Possibility in Times of Change

November 2022

videos for inclusion in worship

THE FOLLOWING DOWNLOADABLE VIDEOS MAY BE USED IN ANY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WORSHIP SERVICE, INCLUDING LIVESTREAMED SERVICES. LENGTH IS INDICATED IN RED.

[Sermon](#) **Rev. Susan Frederick Gray**, President, UUA 14:15

Susan (she/her) began her six-year term as president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in June 2017.

[Opening Words](#) **Jessica York**, Director of Congregational Life 4:12

Jessica (she/her), a native of Birmingham, AL, was previously the UUA's Co-director of Ministries and Faith Development and the Director of the Faith Development office.

[Meditation](#) **Rev. Patrice Curtis**, Transformational Interim Ministries Director 4:12

Patrice (they/Patrice) supports interim and developmental religious professionals in amplifying diversity, equity, and inclusion within congregations, and in disrupting unhealthy patterns that make Beloved Community difficult to realize. They have served in roles of transition, contract, and settled minister.

[Closing Words](#) **Rev. Keith Kron**, Director of Transitions Office 3:12

Keith (he/him) helps congregations ministers as they navigate the ministerial search process. He is the former Director of the UUA's Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns.



additional (written) worship material

YOU MIGHT USE THESE OR [OTHER WORSHIPWEB MATERIALS](#) TO AUGMENT YOUR WORSHIP SERVICE:

- [All That We Have Been, All That We Will Become](#) by Rev. Leslie Falls
 - [Bold and Courageous Together](#) by Rev. Erika Hewitt
 - [May You Be Changed](#) by Emily Richards
 - [The Purpose of This Community...](#) by Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom
 - [Determined Seed](#) by Laura Wallace
 - [We Carry the Flame](#) by Rev. Douglas Taylor
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Continuing the Conversation

We welcome you to use these questions in your coffee hour, small group/covenant group meetings, and other forums for community sharing:

- What are some ways that you recognize yourself or your congregation as living in “liminal times”? (Rev. Susan: “Liminal means a time in between—when *what has been* is no longer and *what is ahead* is still unclear.”)
 - In your experience of transition, what’s been actively removed or taken away? How did you grieve that loss? What other feelings are you carrying?
 - Where have you exerted a *choice*—your agency—to let go of something that is “no longer”? What helped you feel at peace with that letting go?
 - What do you feel yourself being called or guided toward? Where do you feel the most hope, or even excitement, about that possibility?

- In the parable that Rev. Susan relates, the late Danaan Parry refers to
....the faith experience. No guarantees, no net, no insurance policy, but you do it anyway because somehow to keep hanging on to that old bar is no longer on the list of alternatives...

What form does “faith” take, in your context? What helps you release “that old bar”?

- Rev. Susan reminds us that “the momentum that sustains us... is the Beloved Community:

a community that practices an overflowing and inclusive love and belonging within the community that supports everyone’s thriving. And a love for the world that cannot tolerate injustice, exploitation, discrimination, and poverty because of the damage these do to human thriving.

How does Beloved Community appear in your congregation? What are concrete signs of “inclusive love and belonging”?

- An old saying goes: *Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.* Among all the changes unfolding in your life, which growth opportunities are you most confident in or excited about?
- One of the themes in Rev. Susan’s sermon is how challenging it can be to “remain unsettled,” and to straddle the gap between what *was* and what *will be*. What spiritual practices or tools do you bring to this uncomfortable place?

Additional Thanks

- Chris Northcross, UUA
- Brent Lewis, UUA
- Ted Resnikoff, UUA
- Aerial gymnast video footage by [Dmitrii Kalinin](#) on Shutterstock
- Still photos by David Guenther and Edwin Hooper on Unsplash.

If you have questions about this worship service, please [contact WorshipWeb](#).