

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

# Order of Service



## November 27, 2011

### Today at Church

Sunday Worship Services in the Sanctuary  
9:15 & 11 am

- **Childcare**  
Murray Room  
9:15 & 11 am
- **Religious Education**  
RE Wing  
9:15 & 11 am
- **7th – 9th Our Whole Lives (OWL) Class**  
Sanger Room  
8:45 – 11:15 am
- **Youth Group Meet-Up**  
Bartok & Thoreau Rooms  
6 – 8:30 pm
- **A History of God Book Discussion Group**  
Potter Room  
12:30 – 2:30 pm

**Our Ushers for Today's Services**  
9:15 – *Lola Reed & Susan Mossuto*  
11 – *David Boose & Veda Van Zee*

*Today's **Abraxan Service** reflects the spirit of the Congregation of Abraxas – an order of UU ministers and lay people who saw worship as the center of our liberal religious life and work, and declared liturgical renewal as their work. "We believe the human enterprise and the health of our churches requires above all else the capacity and vehicles for genuine private and public worship. We want to renew liturgy in our lives so it will renew us and our society."  
– [www.uua.org/spirituallife/worshipweb/theory/abraxanessay](http://www.uua.org/spirituallife/worshipweb/theory/abraxanessay).*





## **Abraxan Service**

### **Chimes & Gathering Music**

*"Visions Fugitives"* by Prokofiev

Gennie Gregg, *Pianist*

### **Opening Words & Chalice Lighting**

Sara Edlin-Marlowe & Cheryl Rohrig, *Worship Leaders*

### **Singing Together**

#163 *"For the Earth Forever Turning"*

### **Welcome & Greeting Each Other**

Sara Edlin-Marlowe

### **Story for All Ages**

Diane Huigen, *Director of Religious Education*

### **Children's Recessional**

#413 *"Go Now in Peace"*

### **Announcements**

*UUUCS Board of Trustees Member*

### **Candles of Care**

Sara Edlin-Marlowe

### **Introduction to Abraxan Liturgy**

Sara Edlin-Marlowe

## Litany of Thanksgiving

Reader — Cheryl Rohrig

**Reader:** In ancient Sumeria, where the Tigris and Euphrates cradled civilization and where the word freedom first appeared in human history, Tammuz, the god of field and meadow, died each year and came to life in marriage with Inanna, goddess of soil and fertility.

**All:** For the ancient roots of human culture, we give thanks.

**Reader:** In early Greece, Orpheus and Dionysius, the gods of music and wine, died each year with the cycle of the seasons and came to life again as a sign of hope.

**All:** For the celebration of joy and promise, we give thanks.

**Reader:** In Egypt of old, people planted seed in the fertile earth, the body of Isis, that her dead lover Osiris, god of grain and harvest, might spring to life again. They celebrated his resurrection with beer and barley cakes as their communion with sacred sun and soil.

**All:** For the sustaining nurture of earth and harvest, we give thanks.

**Reader:** On the night following their deliverance from slavery to the Pharaoh, the children of Israel shared a feast of unleavened bread to mark their release from bondage.

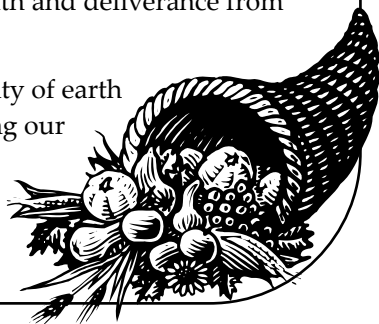
**All:** For the end of all slavery and the promise of liberation, we give thanks.

**Reader:** On the night before he died, the rabbi Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples and friends. He broke bread before them and poured out wine, so that by these acts of remembering his followers might not be defeated by sorrow, betrayal, pain and death, but share strength and joy with each other.

**All:** For the visible signs of victory over death and deliverance from darkness, we give thanks.

**Reader:** On this day we partake of the bounty of earth and rejoice in the work of the spirit, renewing our covenant of justice and love.

**All:** For these signs of community we share, we give thanks.



### Offertory

*"In a Mist"* by Bix Biederbeck, Mary Lou Williams arrangement  
Gennie Gregg

### Mindful Meditation

Cheryl Rohrig

### Sermon

*Let Go and Let God:  
Break on Through to the Other Side!*  
Sara Edlin-Marlowe

### Abraxan Ritual Continues

**Leaders** — Sara Edlin-Marlowe & Cheryl Rohrig

### Invitation

**Leader:** The breaking of bread is a mark of our community, a sign of our sharing, a model to redeem the world.

**Congregation:** Nations go to war for hoarding of bread. People are jailed for the need of bread. People die for the want of bread.

**Right:** Bread's other name is Freedom.

**Left:** Bread's other name is Justice

**All:** Bread's other name is Compassion

**Leader:** We share the bread in memory of all who have died that others may live. We share bread as a visible sign beyond the spoken word.

**All:** We share bread, as an act of power; power to feed, power to touch hearts, power to transform the empty into the filled.

**Leader:** All are welcome at this table without regard to class or creed, belief or unbelief, for the community we share is larger than these.



## The Great Prayer

**Leader:** Let us pray together, saying:

**All:** We remember, at this time, not just one who died to save all people, but the many who have died for the sake of justice, for the sake of truth, for the sake of love, and sometimes for the sake of nothing at all. One human family are they and we — saints and sinners, martyrs and heroes, ordinary men and woman and children, the famous and the forgotten, the nameless and the numberless. Their bodies, like bread, are broken, their blood, like wine, is spilled. We name our own.

**Leader:** We name those we remember and for those lives we give thanks.

*You are invited to say aloud the names of those you wish to remember*

**Leader:** Those named out loud and those remembered in the silence, we hold in our Circle of Compassion.

**All:** Bound together are they and we — in grief and hope that life shall live again, that they shall not have died in vain. Our lives are now bathed in the light of their living and dying and living again in us, by the bread we break, by the drink we share. By the love we live, in this special moment, in this special way. Salam. Amen. Shalom. Blessed Be.

## The Consecration

**Leader:** The gifts of earth for the people of the earth

**All:** This is the bread of affliction, the poor bread which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat.

**Leader:** This is the body of earth which is broken for us as the plow rends the soil to receive the seed. As we feed the earth, so its grain gives to us the Bread of Life.

**All:** When you gather the grapes of your vineyards for the winepress, say in your heart, "I, too, am in a vineyard and my fruit shall be gathered for the winepress."

**Sara:** This is the blood of all nations, which is spilled as the winepress breaks open the fruit of the vine. As we ferment its harvest, so its spirit becomes the Wine of Hope.

## The Distribution

**Leader:** To a rabbi God said, "I will show you hell." In a room with a large pot of stew in the middle sat people, famished and desperate, holding spoons with handles longer than their arms. They could not get the stew in their mouths. Their suffering was terrible.

**Leader:** "Now I will show you heaven," said God, and in an identical room with all things the same, the people were well nourished and happy. "It is simple," said God. "They have learned to feed each other." In that spirit receive these signs and share them with your neighbor.

**Leader:** We are invited to feed each other as a model for feeding the world. When the tray is passed, the person passing it holds it until the neighbor has taken a piece. Please hold the bread until the cup is passed and then dip the bread into the cup.



## Words for Sharing Communion

**As each person offers bread to another:** *Bread of life given freely to you.*

**As each person offers drink to another:** *Fruit of earth given freely to you.*

## After the Communion

**Leader:** Three holy realities bind our lives in community as one human family of earth

**All:** Holy is truth, which makes us free; holy is love, the hope of the world; holy is community, which sustains our being, our becoming and our having been.

**Leader:** May these forever nourish us and the world around in justice equity and peace.

## **Singing Together**

#128 *"For All that Is Our Life"*

## **Benediction**

Sara Edlin-Marlowe

## **Shalom Havayreem**

All Assembled

## **Postlude**

*"King for a Day"* by Dave Brubeck

Gennie Gregg

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## **Winter Holiday Events & Services**

❄️ **Annual Holiday Dinner & Tree Trimming** — Sat \* Dec 3rd  
\* 5 pm — Fun-raiser for UU Youth Group

❄️ **Sunday Services** — Dec 4th  
*"Everything I Need to Know I Learned in College:  
Toward the Maturation of Morality"*  
Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, *Minister*

❄️ **Sunday Services** — Dec 11th  
*"Not to Know Knowing:  
An Introduction to San Juan de la Cruz"*  
Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, *Minister*

❄️ **Sunday Services** — Dec 18th  
\* 9:15 — Doug Huigen, *UUCS Member Speaker*  
\* 11 am — Children's Winter Holiday Pageant

❄️ **Winter Solstice Singing Ritual** — Wed \* Dec 21st  
\* 7 pm — Annual celebration of the Darkness and the Light

❄️ **Cosmic Advent Service** — Sat \* Dec 24th  
\* 6 pm — Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, *Minister*

❄️ **Sunday Service** — Dec 25th  
\* 10 am — *One Multigenerational Service \* No Religious Education*  
*"Rudolph, Santa & the Red Scare:  
We're All on the Island of Misfit Toys"*  
Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, *Minister*

*Our regular Sunday schedule resumes January 1, 2012*

**Coming Up**  
 Week of November 28, 2011

**Monday, Nov 28**

Dessert Pals (Kitchen Rental)	8 am
Problem Solvers	10 am
Belly Dancing Troupe Practice	6 pm
Buddhist Meditation Class	6:30 pm

**Tuesday, Nov 29**

Solstice Singers Rehearsal	6 pm
Belly Dancing Troupe Practice	6 pm
Ashdrum & Dance Ensemble Rehearsal	6 pm

**Wednesday, Nov 30**

<i>Weekly Publications Deadline</i>	10 am
Board of Trustees Meeting	6 pm
Bucket Drum Corps Practice	6:30 pm

**Thursday, Dec 1**

SUUNvisors Bulk Mailing Work Party	9 am
Partner Church Team Meeting	5 pm
Mix Choir Rehearsal	7 pm

**Friday, Dec 2**

Congregational Emanu-El Rabbi Weekend	7 pm
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**Saturday, Dec 3**

Congregational Emanu-El Rabbi Weekend	7 pm
CUUPS Monthly Meeting	10 am
CUUPS Craft/Hobby Circle	12 pm
Annual Winter Holiday Dinner & Tree Trimming	5 pm

**Sunday, Dec 4**

7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade OWL Class	8:45 am
Sunday Worship & Religious Education	9:15 & 11 am
A History of God Book Discussion	12:30 pm

**The Simplest of Sacraments**

...To pass from one person to another  
 a morsel of bread, an answering yes,  
 this is the simplest, the quietest,  
 of sacraments.

Jacob Trapp — *Unitarian Universalist*