

September 12, 2001

Rev. Jennifer Slade, Senior Minister

Sarah Zimmerman, Interim Assistant Minister Officiating

Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Greenville, South Carolina

Prelude Cotege et Litanie, Op. 19, No. 2 , Marcel Dupre

Chalice Lighting

Antiphonal Reading We Need One Another #468 Living Tradition Hymnal

Reading

Vielleicht, das ich dur schwere Berge gehe

by Ranier Maria Rilke

It feels as though I make my way
through massive rock
like a vein of ore
alone, encased.

I am so deep inside it
I can't see the path or any distance:
and everything is close
and everything closing in on me
has turned to stone.

Since I still don't know enough about pain,
this terrible darkness makes me small.
If it's you, though-

press down hard on me, break in
that I may know the weight of your hand,
and you, the fullness of my cry.

Opening Words

Dear friends. We come together tonight with heavy hearts. Life as we have known it will never be the same. We have stared into the face of human hate and destruction. We have felt the shock of knowing that we, as a country, as a people, have been demonized; considered less than human. We are filled with the sorrow and rage at the violence and loss of life.

We are also here to affirm together that love is stronger than hate , life is stronger than death, compassion is stronger than righteousness. We are here to be in solidarity with those who suffer. We are here to acknowledge in our hearts that love and justice are stronger than hate and

oppression. We are grateful our lives, for our community. We stand as a witnesses to a commitment to be instruments of peace and healing and love.

Let us join together in the communion of silence

Reading

The Task Of The Religious Community by Mark Morrison -Reed

The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice.

It is the congregation that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. the religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed.

Invitation To Light Candles (Sarah) (Music played while candles are being lit.: Requiem aeternam, John Rutter ; Rutter Requiem)

Prayer (Sarah)

(adapted from The Upanishads by Satish Kumar)

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth
Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.
Peace, Peace, Peace.

Invitation to silence

Song

The lone wild bird in lofty flight is still with thee, nor leaves thy sight. And I am thine! I rest in thee. Great spirit come and rest in me.

Amen and Blessed Be.

Reading

Denn sieh: sie werden leben und sich mehren
Ranier Maria Rilke

There's also this to see: They will live on they will
increase,
no longer pawns of time.
They will grow like sweet wild berries
the forest ripens as its treasure.

The blessed are those who never turned away
and blessed are those who stood quietly in the rain.
Theirs shall be the harvest: for them the fruits.

They will outlast the pomp and power
of lawmakers, whose meanings will crumble.
When all else is exhausted and bled of purpose,
they will lift their hands, that have survived.

Benediction:

Jennifer:

My heart is moved by all I cannot save:
So much has been destroyed
I have to cast my lot with those
who, age after age,
perversely, with no extraordinary
power, reconstitute the world
--- Adrienne Rich

Sarah:

Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime; therefore we are saved by hope. Nothing true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we are saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love. ...We are saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness. --- Reinhold Niebuhr

Go in peace, compassion and love.

Postlude

Lord Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace. ; John Rutter, Saint Francis of Assisi