



## *What a Questioning Theist Learned from Atheism*

Rev. Meg Roberts

– August 13, 2017 –

# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER

## Celebration of Worship

### August 13, 2017

At the front of the church you will find unlit candles. You are welcome to light a candle in remembrance, in gratitude, in prayer, in celebration.



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*The prelude helps to create a spirit for shared celebration and worship.  
Please refrain from conversing and please turn off your cell phones.*

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**Prelude**

Eric Wyness,\* Pianist

**Opening Words & Kindling the  
Chalice Flame**

Paul Sprecher

**Greeting Our Neighbours**

**Opening Hymn #343**

*A Firemist and a Planet*

**Story for all Ages**

*It's Not Just What You Believe, But How*  
Story adapted from Gary Kowalski

**Children's Recessional**

*Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the spirit of love  
surround you, everywhere, everywhere you may go*

**Welcome and Announcements**

Marg Fletcher

**Reading from the Book of  
Celebrations and Concerns**

Marg Fletcher

**Offering:** *We deeply appreciate  
your presence here, your offerings  
and the gifts you share.*

Marg Fletcher

**Reflection**

**What a Questioning Theist Learned from Atheism**

Rev. Meg Roberts\*\*

**Meditation - Sung then Silent**

#184: *Be Ye Lamps Unto Yourselves*

**Closing Hymn #128**

*For All That is Our Life*

**Closing Words /  
Extinguishing the Chalice Flame**

Ma Theresa Gustilo Gallardo

**Valediction**      *Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again.  
Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again.*

\* A writer, teacher, musician and Vancouver native, Eric played in several popular rock and jazz outfits while doing classical music at UBC, taking piano with Bob Rogers, theory and composition with Cortland Hultberg. After studying gamelan in Bali, Eric returned to write, teach, and lead the notorious freeform improv ensemble *die fliegende Untertassen*.

\*\* Rev. Meg Roberts is quarter-time consulting minister with the Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship (going into her sixth year this fall). She lives here in Vancouver, is a member of this congregation, and also does a community ministry using the arts in spiritual exploration. As part of this work last March, she was in Theatre for Living's forum play *šx"ʔamət (home)* which looks at what true and honourable reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians looks like---it had 11 sold-out performances at the Firehall Arts Centre and plans are to tour in BC and Alberta early in 2018, ending with an 8-show run back in Vancouver.

The Unitarian Universalist living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbours as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centred traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

The seats in the rear of the church are **reserved**:  
(when facing the front) *left side for parents with babies or small children in childcare, and right side for persons in wheelchairs & strollers*

To subscribe to the email version of the *UCV Events & Order of Service* write:  
*ucvevents@gmail.com* Please include your name.

**Next Sunday Service: August 20, 2017, 11 am**

***Dancing the Living Tradition***

Mary Bennett and Mairy Beam

## AUGUST 13, 2017 – TODAY AT UCV

**CHILDREN’S PROGRAM:** We are committed to providing safe, compassionate, age-appropriate programming for all children and youth who attend or visit UCV. Our goal is to find the Fun with Meaning! Our Summer program is small and laid back, focused on games, gardening, and art led by volunteer guides and parents. Activities are open to both members and visitors. Everyone attends the start of service together through the chalice lighting, opening hymn, and story for all ages.

**After the story for all ages, children ages 5-12 meet the RE Guides at the back of the Sanctuary for the day’s activities.”**

**Childcare is available** for children up to age five between 10:45 am and 12:30 pm in Servetus Room on the main floor of Hewett Centre, opposite the library.

**Children and babies are always welcome to remain** with their adult family members through the service if they prefer.

**Please meet your child downstairs or in the garden after the service: children under age 9 will remain with the Guides until met by a responsible family member.**

**YOUTH GROUP** Our High School Youth Group (grades 8-12) does not meet during the summer. During the school year our Youth Group is led collaboratively by the youth and trained advisors. They meet weekly to explore issues of faith development, social justice, life experiences, trials, tribulations, and joys of navigating life—through games and small group activities. Other activities include monthly youth sleepovers at the church, Regional UU Youth Conferences, and the UU-United Nations Office (NYC) Spring Seminar on Global Migration in April of 2018. Please contact Olivia Hall ([oliviahmargaret@gmail.com](mailto:oliviahmargaret@gmail.com)) or Kiersten Moore ([dre@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:dre@vancouverunitarians.ca)) for more information.

**MEDITATION:** Join us for the Sunday morning sitting meditation at 10 – 10:45 am. There is brief guidance at the beginning of each sit. In consideration of others, please try to come on time. Any inquiries can be sent to [victoriaoginski@gmail.com](mailto:victoriaoginski@gmail.com).

**UCV LIBRARY BOOKS** Related to today’s service include:

- 211.8: *In Defense of Atheism - The Case Against Christianity, Judaism, Islam* by Michel Omfray
- 210: *Religion for Atheists* by Alain de Botton
- 210: *Godless Religion - Finding the Profound* by Robert Bietkus
- 291.4: *Spirit Matters* by Michael Lerner
- 211.8: *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**UCV'S NEW COMING OF AGE PROGRAM!** Next year UCV will be running a Coming of Age mentorship program for children and youth ages 12-14 where our kids can learn, reflect, and grow. Do you have a child in this age range who wants to spend next year playing games, getting to know their peers, and deepening their understanding of their spirituality? If so, please email Olivia Hall ([oliviahmargaret@gmail.com](mailto:oliviahmargaret@gmail.com)) and Kiersten Moore ([dre@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:dre@vancouverunitarians.ca)).

**AUGUST ART EXHIBIT:** *Call of the Drums* photographic art exhibit by Gail Stephan, running August 1 to September 1 in the UCV Sanctuary. Meet the artist! On August 13 and 27, Gail herself will be hosting in the Hewett Center from 10 to 11am, and from 12 to 1 pm. Follow Gail on Instagram at @gks1950 or visit her Facebook page (Gail Stephan).

**NEXT MOVEABLE FEAST: PLUS** John Voth's artworks, "*Exposed: The Inner Beauty of Wood*". Saturday, August 26, 6 pm at Enigma Restaurant (4397 West 10 Avenue). RSVP to Dianne Crosbie, [dcrosbie@uniserve.com](mailto:dcrosbie@uniserve.com)



**JOIN THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM:** We're gearing up for fall back-to-church and it would be a benefit to have a few more folk on the communications team to help committees and groups design brochures, update the website, write news posts and make posters for the bulletin boards. Meetings (usually only two a year) are optional. More details here: <http://vancouverunitarians.ca/ucv/communications-team/> [maryinvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:maryinvancouver@gmail.com)

**RENT OUR SPACE!** Are you part of a group who needs to rent space for meetings, concerts, celebrations? Please consider--and pass along--information about our church space. While some times of the year get busy, there's lots of space available over the summer. You can find the rates and spaces available here: <http://vancouverunitarians.ca/ucv/about-us/facility-rental/> Contact Marcus at [info@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:info@vancouverunitarians.ca) or call 604-261-7204 extension 0 for more information.

**LAY CHAPLAIN OPPORTUNITY:** UCV Lay Chaplains co-create and officiate at weddings, memorials, child blessings and other rites of passage ceremonies such as house blessings and coming out ceremonies. It's a joyful, loving service to the greater community beyond UCV. It's also a path to personal spiritual growth. The work is demanding but intermittent. It asks for maturity, empathy, imagination, and wholeheartedness. Its benefits are beyond words. For more details about the job's requirements and its blessings, contact Nan Gregory, [nangregory@shaw.ca](mailto:nangregory@shaw.ca), 604-228-1450, or Katherine Roback, [katherinekrobak@gmail.com](mailto:katherinekrobak@gmail.com), 604-872-0426.

**EARTH-CENTERED SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS:** A couple of UCV members are incubating an idea for a family-friendly pagan(ish) celebration on the Sunday afternoon nearest the equinoxes and solstices. What we're considering is a 2 – 3 pm ritual with song and dance; 3 – 4 pm nature-based activity; 4 – 5 pm potluck finger food (might be dinner for some of us!). The idea would be that some people would hang around for 3 hours and others just for the ritual. If this has some appeal for you, could you drop me a note with your feedback. The first one will likely be Sunday, September 17 to celebrate the autumn equinox. Mary Bennett [maryinvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:maryinvancouver@gmail.com)

**Saturday, September 23, 2017 (from 5:30 pm)**

JOIN THE FUN  
*at the 4th annual*



- *tasty food*  
- *congenial company*  
- *excellent entertainment*

*\$12 tickets (or by donation) on sale after service Sept. 10 & 17  
in Hewett Hall (only 100 available)*

**\* Bring a salad or entrée (appetizers & dessert provided)**  
Childcare available (please indicate if needed when you purchase tickets)

**OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FUND:** The Overdose Prevention Society (OPS) is the organization to receive funds from OOF from the beginning of June until the end of September. OPS was founded in September 2016 by three women who were concerned about how little was being done about the growing fentanyl crisis in Vancouver. In potential violation of the law, they set up a drug injection site in an alley in Vancouver's downtown Eastside to combat the many overdose deaths and have saved hundreds of lives. Their peer-based services are beneficial to the health authority, to the community, and to the participants themselves and ensure access to health & welfare services to excluded, vulnerable & marginalized people.

## **OUTSIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ANNUAL VANCOUVER ISLAND UNITARIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT** will be held at Bethlehem Retreat Centre in Nanaimo BC on the weekend of September 15 to 17, 2017. The cost for the weekend is \$265. The workshop is *Write Your Life* with Lois Peterson and Maggie de Vries. Registration form with more information is at <http://tinyurl.com/2017NWR>. For further information contact Theresa at [tm Marion3@yahoo.com](mailto:tm Marion3@yahoo.com) or [604-687-4864](tel:604-687-4864).

## ***Warm Welcome!***

Please visit our Visitors' Table and get a nametag in the Sanctuary foyer. Drop by the Welcome Table in Hewett Centre after the service and stay for coffee or tea and friendly conversation. Learn about our church and our community. Look for people wearing yellow nametags, who are welcoming you today.

If you are a new family visiting with children or babies, we look forward to welcoming you in person. Free childcare is available for children 3 and under, and children 4 and over are invited to join in this week's program activities. Children are also welcome to stay for the church service if they prefer. If you feel that you need to slip out of the service with a crying baby, please feel free to rejoin the service at any time. The service can also be heard in the foyer and in Hewett Centre.

### **SUPPORT TEAM TODAY**

#### **COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS**

Ann Foster, Amy Megumi Anderson

#### **FLOWERS**

Lorraine Calame

#### **LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL**

Kaelyn Elfert, Lindsay Udem

#### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

Marcus Hynes

#### **SOUND**

Galen Elfert

#### **GREETERS**

Margo Elfert, Sakura Nandana, George Atherton, Penny Pearson

#### **WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE**

Jane Sutherland, Alison Pearson

### **STAFF**

#### **PARISH MINISTER**

Rev. Steven Epperson

#### **COMMUNITY MINISTER**

Rev. Laura Imayoshi

#### **DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Kiersten Moore

#### **CHOIR DIRECTOR**

Donna Brown

#### **MUSIC ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER**

Elliott Dainow

#### **CASUAL CARETAKERS**

James Wilson, Mark Klassen, Ben Yeung

Paul Nash, Igor Santizo, Ken Godmere

#### **CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**

Aurora Eyolfson

#### **OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Marcus Hynes

#### **BOOKKEEPER**

Collene Harris

#### **SUNDAY RECEPTIONISTS**

Virginia Crabill, Robert Schultz

#### **UCV LAY CHAPLAINS**

Nan Gregory, Louise Bunn

## **The Unitarian Church of Vancouver**

### **Our Vision**

Because we envision a more compassionate world, we seek to deepen our spiritual and religious lives, grow and enrich our congregation, and advocate for love and justice.

### **Living Our Vision**

As Unitarians, we are dedicated to spiritual growth, social justice, and reverence for nature and all life. We embody these values through worship, ethical action, artistic expression, and religious education for all ages that aim to connect hearts, heads, and hands. Our congregation welcomes all ages, orientations, abilities, and identities in our joyous search for meaning.