



Abandon (Nearly) All Hope?

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson

– April 9, 2017 –

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER

Celebration of Worship

April 9, 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.



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



Prelude

Music for Passover

trad.

E. Dainow, piano

Opening Words/Greeting Our Neighbours

Rev. Steven Epperson

Kindling the Chalice Flame

Rev. Steven Epperson

Children presenting Hymn #368

Our awesome tweens have been studying a social justice curriculum in their Sunday RE class called Sing to the Power and we have been practicing this song together. They look forward to a rousing rendition with the congregation! (see p.4)

Sing to the Power
Mike Bomford & Rayne
Beveridge on guitar

New Member Recognition:

Eva Allan

Mairy Beam

Oonagh Berry

Coraline Feni

Benno Ganz

Christopher Levenson

Sheila Lindfield

Luke Moore

Sandy Riecken

Carol Siebert

Lauren Stokes

David Valentine

Litany of Welcome and Affirmation

The Congregation: We welcome you as new members to our religious community. We will gladly walk with you in a common journey to deepen our spiritual and ethical lives. May that journey together be a fulfilling experience for all of us. May it bring the aims and ideals we share more fully to realization in our lives.

New Members: We thank you for welcoming us this day as we embark on membership in the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. We seek to learn explore, serve, and celebrate in this community. We promise to join with you to achieve the mission and vision of this congregation.

All: The Unitarian Church of Vancouver celebrates the diversity and shared values of its members. We cherish our freedom and openness to truth. We will support each other in our quest for meaning and justice. We will support each other in times of joy, sorrow, and need. Together may we deepen and celebrate our life in community, and help flourish the quality of life for all.

Let's sing the children out "Go now..."

Welcome and Announcements

Julia Myers

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

Julia Myers

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

*Zog Maran ('Tell Me, Marrano')** trad.
E. Dainow, piano & voice

Meditation

Hope F. Mendelssohn
E. Dainow, piano

Sermon

Abandon (Nearly All) Hope? Rev. Steven Epperson

Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice Flame

Rev. Steven Epperson

Valediction

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

* 'Marrano' describes a Spanish Jew living under the Inquisition, pretending to be Christian while secretly practicing Judaism. In this song, the Marrano is asked where he will get the things he needs to celebrate Passover - which begins tomorrow. In the last verse he is asked what he will do if the soldiers discover him and he replies that he will fight with song.

Next Sunday Service: April 16, 2017, 11 am

Celebrate Easter? YES: A Worship Service for All Ages

Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson with Kiersten Moore & UCV members

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.

***Sing to the Power Lyrics:**

Upper Part:

Sing to the power of **the pledge campaign.**

Sing to the power of **the pledge campaign.**

Lift up your voice. Be not afraid.

Sing to the power of **the pledge campaign.**

Lower Part:

Now let us sing, sing, sing

Now let us sing, sing, sing

Lift up your voice. Be not afraid.

Let us sing to the power of the pledge campaign.

Verses substitute bolded words:

Sing to the power of:

2. Giving now.
3. A helping hand.
4. Togetherness.
5. Building our home.
6. Faith in us.
7. Giving now.

APRIL 9, 2017

CAMERON REID MEMORIAL: A memorial celebrating the life of Cameron Reid will take place in the Sanctuary after service on Sunday, April 9 at 1:30 pm. Cam's son Dash is in our children's RE program.

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.

FORUM: *Mike Church on Site C.* Professor Church, one of the world's best fluvial geomorphologists, has studied the Peace River for years. He is the author of many scientific articles and reports on the river and recently a book (*Regulation of Peace River: a case study for river management*, New York, Wylie, 2015). He has been a huge positive environmental influence in our province -- for example, as a member of the advisory panel struck after Clayoquot that recommended the ecologically-based forestry now practiced in the Great Bear Rain Forest.

ART IN THE CHURCH: March 2 – April 16, a retrospective of John Voth's work *Inner Beauty Of Wood Exposed* in the Sanctuary and Fireside. John is a long-time valued member of this community, contributing time and effort in many ways. Look up and see his handiwork: the embossed coppers on the beams.

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! Sunday morning classes and childcare are provided free of charge as part of the mission of this congregation. Everyone attends the start of service together through the chalice lighting, opening hymn, and story for all ages.

After the story children ages 3-12 proceed to the lower level of Hewett Centre for their classes:

Chalice Children (age 3-6);

Origins & Journeys (ages 7-9)

Sing to the Power (ages 10-12).

Childcare is available for children, up to age three, 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 welcome to remain with their parents/guardians through the service if they prefer.

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

YOUTH GROUP: Our High School Youth Group (grades 8-12) meets from 1—3 pm each Sunday in Hitschmanova on the lower level of Hewett Centre. Our Youth Group is led collaboratively by the youth and trained advisors. They explore issues of faith development, social justice, life experiences, trials, tribulations and joys of navigating life—and they always include a good measure of fun and games. All youth members and visitors are welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL 16 FORUM: Children, Nature and Dance – Anne Catherine McConnel. Anne Catherine teaches at Sherbrook University education department. Among the courses she teaches is how to teach the elementary school curriculum through dance. She is in town as part of the Children and Nature Organization's conference. Sponsored by Forum Arts and Culture Group

NEXT MOVEABLE FEAST: Saturday, April 29 at 6 pm. Location: Po Kong Chinese Vegetarian Restautant, 1334 Kingsway (near 23rd Ave.). Please RSVP to secure your place at the table! Contact Dianne Crosbie (dcrosbie@uniserve.com) or Karen Bartlett (Karen.bartlett@ubc.ca)

EASTER DINNER AT UCV: Join friends - and bring friends if you wish - to UCV for Easter Dinner on Sunday, April 16th, 6 pm. All ages welcome. RSVP appreciated to ucvhygge@gmail.com so we can plan accordingly. If you can help set up or clean up--many hands make light work. From your Hygge team, Mary and Patti

THE THIRD SUNDAY BOOK GROUP: The Secret Scripture, by Sebastian Barry, won James Tait Black Memorial Prize (oldest prize in UK), Irish Book Awards Novel of the Year and Choice Award, shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, won Costa Awards Book of the Year. Costa judge Lisa Jewell writes, "The book was a diamond, the book was a triumph, the book was, for me, unequivocally the winner... it was about the essence of a good book... Barry's book was, quite simply, magic. All welcome, Sunday, April 16, 12:30 – 2 pm in Lindsey-Priestley.

ALL PARTIES FORUM: All Parties Election Forum on Environment and Social Justice Postponed to Wednesday, May 3, 7–9 pm at UCV. Co-sponsored by the Social Justice and Environment Committees, Unitarian Church of Vancouver, and the Suzuki Elders of the David Suzuki Foundation, the forum will focus on Social Justice (ending poverty, welfare rates, child care, affordable housing); Environment/Sustainability (transportation, Deas Island Bridge); and Jobs and the Economy (Party plans for a clean green economy with sustainable long term employment). All welcome!

SACRED CIRCLE DANCE/POTLUCK DINNER: Sunday, April 16 – Sacred Circle Dance 2–5 pm, potluck dinner at 5:30 pm. Come to either or both and bring your friends and family. RSVPs appreciated to plan for space: ucvhygge@gmail.com

GLAD – GATHERING FOR LABYRINTH, ART & DANCE: Thursday, April 20, 11 am–1 pm. We start with some circle dance, then do meditation/colouring of labyrinths, time to walk labyrinth (if no rain) and then more circle dance. Small group. Mary Bennett will facilitate this month (note that the wrong date was accidentally put in UCV Events).

COFFEE SERVERS: Hi everyone, we are looking for coffee service volunteers for before and after the service. If you're new to UCV, it's a great way to meet everyone and make yourself at home! Please call Adele @ 604-603-8593.

FINDING IT HARD TO MEET PEOPLE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS? We know that coffee hour can be a little busy and noisy - and conversations may start but get interrupted. Your "Hygge" Team has lined up at least one potluck dinner for small groups in members' homes or at the church through to June. Please contact Mary at ucvhygge@gmail.com to get details.

SHARE YOUR STORY: A SERMON WRITING WORKSHOP: Sat. May 27, 2017, 12:30–5:30 pm at UCV. Facilitated by Rev. Meg Roberts. Workshop cost also includes 1 follow-up group coaching session to help integrate learning. **Cost:** Early Bird special to April 30 is \$35. (May 1–18 is \$50). Maximum 24 participants so register early. For more information contact UCV Worship Committee chair Way Kent: 110395@telus.net or phone the UCV office (604-261-7204) Early Bird Registration Deadline is April 30, final registration deadline is May 18.

OUTSIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

VANCOUVER KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL: Calling all volunteers! The Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival hosts its annual solo festival from April 10–29, with dates at Unitarian Church from April 10–22. The festival would not be able to succeed without the help of loyal volunteers, like you. No musical experience is necessary! All ages welcome. Sign-up online at vkmfestivals.org/donate, e-mail nina.horvath@vkmfestivals.org or call 604-441-6741.

UCV Vision Taskforce--

(Léonie Armstrong [co-chair], Rev. Steven Epperson, Cole Harris, Kiersten Moore, Hanno Pinder, Jenny Podlecki, Paul Prescod [co-chair], Tamiko Suzuki)

Next Steps

On Sunday April 16th, we will vote whether to approve (or not) the *Vision and Living Our Vision Statements* proposed for approval by the UCV Vision Taskforce. Ballots will be inserted in the April 16th orders of service. All are invited to remain in the Sanctuary for a brief meeting to read the Statements, answer any clarifying questions, and then vote by ballot. Anyone not able to stay for the meeting can still vote and hand their ballots to a Vision Taskforce member in the Sanctuary foyer and Hewett Hall.

Proposed UCV Vision Statement

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.

A note from Rev. Steven Epperson regarding the Vision Statement:

Several UCV members have questioned the use of the term “religious” in our proposed Vision Statement, (i.e. “...we seek to deepen our spiritual and *religious* lives.”) Isn’t it enough to say “spiritual lives” and leave it at that? I’m struck by the recent phenomenon of young people increasingly detaching from the digital cloud for their music and turning more and more to vinyl records, and from e-books to paper bound within covers. Not so long ago, we were led to believe that the age of vinyl records and physical books was coming to an end; it looks like the future has been postponed.

In an increasingly harried and digitized world, people are still seeking and need well-grounded, analog experiences. If we think of the *spirit* as mind and heart, which we would deepen and nourish, then *religion* is the body, the vessel that might just take us there. For that we need bricks and mortar; we need a place and time set aside to take us into an authentic, embodied experience of the spirit; and we need a community of like-minded, soulful folk to enable that joyous search of ours for a meaningful life to take place. For we know that *together*, our vision widens and our strength is renewed. Bricks and mortar, a place and time set apart for worship and learning, and a community dedicated to a meaningful life?: it’s called *religion*—something that’s still useful and relevant in our world now and in the future.

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, Lyndsey Udem
LUNCH	Refugee Committee
ORDER OF SERVICE	Marcus Hynes
SOUND	Galen Elfert
GREETERS	Margo Elfert, Sakura Nandana, Setty Pendakur, Penny Pearson
WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE	Naomi Taylor, Philomene Jahnke

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, Matt Yeung, Igor Santizo
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

We are a community of diverse beliefs and shared values.

In fellowship with one another, we seek spiritual growth, social justice, and environmental sustainability through worship, ethical action, education, and artistic expression. We welcome all who would join this compassionate and visionary community

The UCV campus is a Smoke-Free Environment