

What if that 'unknown god' chose to come and find us? What if he chose to come to where we are in space, time and history?
Alister McGrath, 20th c.

And when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up the day when all God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing the words of that old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"
Martin Luther King, 20th c.

Prayer Candles: Is there a person or relationship that needs a prayer?
Please come forward and light an individual prayer candle before our worship begins.

Greeting One Another in Peace and Friendship Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude *Jesus, I Love Thee* Lani Smith
Mark Baker, *organ*

The Centering Silence

* **The Gathering Hymn** *How Great Thou Art* # 33

* The Call to Worship

L: Listen to the rustle of the wind in the trees, and hear the murmur of God calling us to be aware of God's presence.

P: Listen to the call of the loon in the darkness of the night and hear the voice of God telling us we are safe.

L: Watch the sun rise over the eastern hills, and be comforted in knowing this is a new day filled with promise and hope.

P: Watch the children playing in the school yard and know in your heart that the future promises good things to come.

L: Feel the warmth of the noonday sun and know that the world is spinning on its axis, the seasons come and go, and God is firmly in charge.

P: Feel the softness of the baby's skin, and be assured that God has the future securely in his embrace.

The Gathering Prayer

Faithful and Loving God, hear our prayer this morning as events around the world often seem threatening and out of control. Wrap us in your comforting arms assuring us that all will be well. Shower your love upon this aching world that the wounds of distrust might be healed; and provide for us confidence of a future filled with respect and peace. Forgive us where we have been arrogant, and guide us along paths of loving our neighbors. Open our ears and eyes to your faithful ministering and help us carry the torch of cooperation into this world so shamefully tarnished by fear and hate. Embrace each of us that we might be sensitive to your presence and to your love for all that you have created. Make us instruments of hope, peace, love and joy. Amen

Worship Music *To be announced* Fred and Susan Heath

A Time for the Child in Each of Us

Sing Our Children to Sunday School (*seated*) *Go Now In Peace* # 437 (*twice*)
Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

The Prayer Hymn *Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant* # 490

The Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) *trans. from Aramaic by Mark Berry, UK*

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere.

Release a space to plant your Presence here.

Imagine your possibilities now.

Embody your desire in every light and form.

Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.

Untie the knots of failure binding us,

as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.

Help us not forget our Source, yet free us from not being in the Present.

From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering.

Amen. May our future actions grow from here!

The Congregational Response *O Lord, hear my prayer* Taize Community

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

The Offering Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Walk among us, God of Peace. Help our church to find the joy that comes through involvement and sharing, so that we participate in the changes taking place in the world and are a part of making all persons free. Amen.

The Offering and The Offertory *Siciliano* John Alcock, Jr.
Mark Baker, *organ*
Isaac Watts

* The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures here below,

Praise God above ye heavenly host,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Gospel Reading *Acts 9:1-20* Paul Harris

The Sermon *Saintly Sinners* Rev. Dr. Emily Taylor

* **The Parting Hymn** *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky* # 684

* The Benediction

* **The Congregational Benediction** (*unison*) *(The Reverend) Fred Rogers*

At the center of the Universe is a loving heart that continues to beat and that wants the best for every person. Anything that we can do to help foster the intellect and spirit and emotional growth of our fellow human beings, that is our job. Those of us who have this particular vision must continue against all odds. Life is for service. Amen.

* **The Postlude**

March

Purcell

Mark Baker, *organ*

Welcome to the Church of Universal Fellowship, a house for all people. We welcome persons of every age, background, circumstance, ethnicity, family configuration, gender identity, and sexual orientation. We believe that diversity enriches our faith community and that each of us has a right and responsibility to support one another as we search for the divine by living, learning, and growing.

~ Today ~

Morning Worship:

10:00 am The Sanctuary (Nursery, Sun. Sch.)

Lemonade & Conversation:

11:00 am The Gathering Place

The Reverend Doctor Emily Taylor is a native of Waterville, Maine. She graduated from Northfield School for Girls in Northfield, Massachusetts, and from Tufts University with a BS in Biology and Chemistry. She also holds a Masters of Education from the University of Maine and has taught high school in Bangor, Falmouth and Gorham. Emily graduated with a Masters in Divinity in 2003 and a Doctorate of Ministry in 2010, both from Bangor Seminary. She retired from her position as minister of the Union Congregations Church of Ellsworth Falls, UCC. Emily and her husband Joe are current residents of Orono. CUF is delighted to have Emily here in the pulpit while Reverend Lorna is on vacation.

BROADWAY AND BEYOND!

Friday, August 3rd, 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

This is a CUF Music with a Mission program to benefit Bangor's **Partners in Peace** (help for domestic violence). Come and enjoy some summer entertainment with Laura Artesani, Emily Cain, Matthew Small and Kelly Caufield.

Tickets on sale at Coffee Hour or from the Church Office. \$12 (\$15 at the door).



Summer Plate Offering

OUR MISSION WITHIN AND FOR OUR COMMUNITY (CUF Open Doors)

Our church is committed to keeping its doors open to promote community-building activities and encourage positive relationships.

Please make checks payable to The Church of Universal Fellowship.

Memo your check or mark your envelope Pledge or Open Doors



The Church of Universal Fellowship

... a house for all people

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - July 29, 2018

Ministers

Dr. Reverend Emily Taylor

and Members of the Congregation

Claude Westfall and Tricia Griffith

New England Aster by Beverly Antonitis

Ushers

Nancy Leavitt

Cover

Paul Harris

Altar Arrangement

Fred and Susan Heath

Liturgist

Mark Baker

Guest Musician

Emily Taylor

Guest Organist

Nancy Leavitt

Hospitality

Raechelle Edmiston-Cyr

Sunday School

Judy Whitney

Summer Nursery Teacher

Offering Plate

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An Open & Affirming Congregation