

**March 8, 2015 UUFC**

Selma, Stewardship Kick-off

**GATHERING** (starting in Gratitude)

**Music for Gathering**

**Welcome to All** Jill

**Introit**

*We are here, here together in this holy moment, and we're grateful for the winding road that brought us to this place." 2x*

**Opening Words**

Craig Olbrich

Come into this circle of love and justice.

Come into this community of mercy, and loving-kindness, and health. Come, and you shall know peace and joy.

We gather once again, in the beauty of this day, in the company of each other.

We gather knowing there is much in this world to fear and to lament.

We gather knowing our lives are both precious and tenuous.

We come to reclaim our hearts, our minds, and our voices – that we may not lose our way nor become weary.

We come to find courage, and to encourage one another to stay on the journey, and to stand on the side of love.

**Lighting of the Chalice**

Virginia Shapiro – Stewardship 9 am,  
Chloe Hoffman 11 am

This light we kindle is set in the lamp of our history.

We inherit this free faith from the brave and gentle, fierce and outspoken hearts and minds that have come before us.

Let us be worthy inheritors of this faith

and through our good works, pass it boldly to a new generation.

Rev. Audette Fulbright Fulson

**Wisdom from the World's Traditions -**

**Time for All Ages -**

**Shared Singing** #162 Gonna Lay Down My Sword and Shield

**AFFIRMING OUR CONNECTIONS** (honoring the pain of the world)

**Joys and Sorrows** - with bowl and pebbles

Include a candle in memory of Selma, those who died, all who struggled, and those who are there today.

**Shared Singing** #169 We Shall Overcome

**Spoken Meditation and Sharing of Silence** On suffering toward justice and how we are all called and all lifter

**Music for Reflection**

**SEARCHING FOR WISDOM AND INSPIRATION**

**Reading**

**Sermon** What Muhammad Taught

**The Offering**      Drop-In Choir      “Love Light and Guidance”?

### **Giving Thanks for All That Sustains Us**

From the countless gifts we each have been given, gifts of life and love and sustenance, we bring these small portions, to share in the works of love which none of us can accomplish alone.

### **Stewardship**

**Announcements**   Jill

### **Closing Song**

*We have spent time together,  
And these holy moments give us strength to go  
Down the winding road until we meet again. (repeat)  
And my prayer for you is a peace that's true (pause) until we meet again.*

### **Closing Words**

### **Postlude**

**4. Fundamentalism, in all our faith traditions, is a politicized use of religion based on fear and power, and it is best defeated from the inside, not the outside.** Fundamentalism cannot be bombed away from without, which just gives them new recruits. Religious fundamentalism is best defeated from within its own tradition. *A global alliance between faith leaders and communities must be built to support responsible and courageous Muslim leaders whose teaching and practice must ultimately undermine the lethal ISIS fundamentalism.* A religious component is a necessary part of defeating ISIS.

March flowers:   8 Ruth, 15 Roberta, 22 Ruth, 29 Chere

God explicitly states that the existence of people from different faiths and opinions is something that we have to acknowledge and welcome heartily, for this is how He created and predestined humankind in this world:

“We have appointed a law and a practice for every one of you. Had God willed, He would have made you a single community, but He wanted to test you regarding what has come to you. So compete with each other in doing good. Every one of you will return to God and He will inform you regarding the things about which you differed.” (Surat al-Ma’ida, 48)

In acknowledgment of this fact, Muslims have an inner love and compassion for people of all faiths, races and nations, for they consider them as the manifestations of God in this world and treat them with an heartfelt respect and love. This is the very basis of communities administered by Islamic morality.

In the vicious maltreatment of defenseless citizens of Selma, where old women and young children were gassed and clubbed at random, we have witnessed an eruption of the disease of racism which seeks to destroy all America. No American is without responsibility. The people of Selma will struggle on for the soul of the nation but it is fitting that all Americans help to bear the burden. I call therefore on clergy of all faiths to join me in Selma. —Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., March 8, 1965, 50 years ago today

Responsive & Unison Readings from Singing the Living Tradition #584 —A Network of Mutuality| by Martin Luther King, Jr. #463 (My heart is moved...) by Adrienne Rich #488 —Hold Fast To Dreams| by Langston Hughes Reading

If Martin Luther King Jr. is right that the arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice, a new movement will arise; and if civil rights organizations fail to keep up with the times, they will be pushed to the side as another generation of advocates comes to the fore. Hopefully the new generation will be led by those who know best the brutality of the new caste system—a group with greater vision, courage, and determination than the old guard can muster, trapped as they may be in an outdated paradigm. This new generation of activists should not disrespect their elders or disparage their contributions or achievements; to the contrary, they should bow their heads in respect, for their forerunners have expended untold hours and made great sacrifices in an elusive quest for justice. But once respects have been paid, they should march right past them, emboldened, as King once said, by the fierce urgency of now. —Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (The New Press, 2010, p. 260)