
Celebrating Sixty-Seven Years of Liberal Ministry

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

Unitarian Universalist

Affirming Respect for All People and the Earth

February 5, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Online

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

What Is Love?

Rev. Christian Schmidt

We've talked about different forms of love before: romantic, friendly, familial, and more. What can different ways of loving help us understand about what it means to be human?

At this symbol ▲, please rise in body or spirit.

The music begins. Worship emerges. Let our bodies and hearts be present.
Let us give our attention to the moment.

Ingathering

"Seasons of Love," from *Rent* Mark Zimmerman
by Jonathan Larson; arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Christian Schmidt

Introit: "Love in Any Language" MVUC Choir
by Jon Mohr and John Mays, arr. John Higgins

Chalice Lighting and Opening Words Suzanne Cleary

▲ Opening Hymn: No 336, "All My Memories of Love"

words by Anna Akhmatova, trans. Mark L. Belletini; plainsong melody, adapt.

1. All my memories of love hang upon high stars.
All the souls I've lost to tears now the autumn jars;
and the air around me here thickens with their song;
sing again their nameless tunes, sing again, and strong.
2. Willows in September touch the water clear,
set among the rushes tall of the flowing year.
Rising up from sunlit past comes the shadowed sigh
running toward me silently, love to fortify. (continued next page)

3. Many are the graceful hearts hung upon this tree.
 And it seems there's room for mine on these branches free;
 and the sky above the tree, whether wet or bright,
 is my ease and comforting, my good news and light

▲ Our Covenant

Love is the teaching of this church.
 The quest of truth is its daily task,
 And service is its prayer.
 To dwell together in peace,
 To seek knowledge in freedom,
 To serve life in community
 To the end that all souls shall grow in harmony—
 This is our Covenant, with each and with all.

Time for All Ages: *The Invisible Web* Laurie Conner
 by Patrice Karst and Joanne Lew-Vriethof

Singing Our Children Out (by Kathleen Tracy)

We hold you in our love as you go, as you go.
 May your heart be at peace as you go.
 To nurture the spark of your precious life,
 We hold you in our love as you go.

Offertory

Sharing Our Gifts Arcadia Farm

Music: “You Don’t Know What Love Is” Dr. Yee Von Ng
 by Don Raye & Gene De Paul

MVUC has switched to Realm for donations: <https://onrealm.org/> or the Realm app.

Or

Click to Pledge:

<https://mvuc.org/stewardship-form/>

Text to Give:

Put 73256 in the *To:* box and
 “MVUC” and the dollar amount
 in the *Text Message* box.

Scan to Give:



Meditation and Prayer Rev. Schmidt

Meditation Hymn: № 95, “There Is More Love Somewhere”

African American Hymn

1. There is more love somewhere.
 There is more love somewhere.
 I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it.
 There is more love somewhere.
2. There is more hope somewhere . . .
3. There is more peace somewhere . . .
4. There is more joy somewhere . . .

Reading: “Humans’ Core Function Is Love” Suzanne Cleary
by Adrienne Maree Brown

Anthem: “Where Is Love?” from *Oliver!* Mark Zimmerman
by Lionel Bart

Sermon: “What Is Love?” Rev. Schmidt

▲ **Closing Hymn:** N^o 325, “Love Makes a Bridge”
words, Brian Wren; music, Gerald Wheeler

1. Love makes a bridge from heart to heart, and hand to hand.
Love finds a way when laws are blind, and freedom banned.
2. Love breaks the walls of language, gender, class, and age.
Love gives us wings to slip the bars of every cage.
3. Love lifts the hopes that force and fear have beaten down.
Love breaks the chains and gives us strength to stand our ground.
4. Love rings the bells of wanted birth and wedding day.
Love guides the hands that promise more than words can say.
5. Love makes a bridge that winds may shake, yet not destroy.
Love carries faith through life and death, to endless joy.

▲ **Extinguishing the Chalice** (N^o 456)

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,
The warmth of community, or the fire of commitment:
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Benediction

Postlude

“May You Go Forth in Love” MVUC Choir
by Sally K. Albrecht

~ **When our worship ends, our service begins.** ~

Next Week: February 12, 2023, 10:00 a.m. In Person and Online

Rev. Christian Schmidt

“What Is Love?”

We’ve talked about different forms of love before: romantic, friendly, familial, and more.
What can different ways of loving help us understand about what it means to be human?

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, Virginia 22307-1996 • P: 703.765.5950 • F: 703.465.1237

admin@mvuc.org • www.mvuc.org •

Subscribe to online services and news at <https://mvuc.org/newsletters/>

A Welcoming Congregation and Accredited Green Sanctuary
MVUC is a 10+ year Honors Congregation member of
the Unitarian Universalist Association, Central East Region