

Celebrating Sixty-Eight Years of Liberal Ministry

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

Unitarian Universalist

Affirming Respect for All People and the Earth

October 1, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Online

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The Wisdom of Broken Things

The Reverend Kimberley Debus

Where do we find wisdom when times are hard, nerves are frayed, and conflict breaks our relationships? We will turn to the sages as we ponder the lessons broken things can teach us about vulnerability, nurturing, and forgiveness.

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: “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” Ria Yang
By Chris Tomlin, arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Becky Brandt

Introit: “Down to the River to Pray” tradition, arranged by Sheldon Curry MVUC Choir

Chalice Lighting & Opening Words: words of Rebecca Ann Parker Becky Brandt

▲ Opening Hymn, No 396, “I Know This Rose Will Open” (sing as a round)
By Mary Grigolia

I know this rose will open.

I know my fear will burn away.

I know my soul will unfurl its wings.

I know this rose will open.

▲ Our Covenant (inside the hymnal on the back cover)

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.

Meditation Hymn, № 1002, “Comfort Me” by Mimi Bornstein

- 1. **Comfort me, comfort me,
Comfort me, oh my soul.
Comfort me, comfort me,
Comfort me, oh my soul.**
- 2. **Sing with me, sing with me...**
- 3. **Speak for me, speak for me...**
- 4. **Dance with me, dance with me...**

Offertory

Sharing Our Gifts.....Frog Pond Early Learning Center

Music: “Give Thanks” by Henry Smith.....Ria Yang

To support our fellowship you can visit <https://onrealm.org> or download the **Realm app**.

Or use one of the following options:

Scan to Give



Click to Give: <https://onrealm.org/MountVernonUnit/-/form/give/now>

Click to Pledge: <https://mvuc.org/giving/stewardship>

Text to Give: Put **73256** in the *To:* box and enter **MVUC** and the dollar amount in the *Text Message* box.

Reading: “Broken Things” by Kathleen Fleming.....Rev. Kimberley

Meditation and Prayer.....Rev. Kimberley

Anthem: “Choose Something Like a Star”.....MVUC Choir

Words by Robert Frost, music by Randall Thompson

Sermon: “The Wisdom of Broken Things”.....Rev. Kimberley

Musical Reflection

▲ Closing Hymn, № 1015, “I Know I Can”

Words by Dennis Hamilton, music by Jeannie Gagné

- 1. **Though days be dark with storms
And burdens weigh my heart;
Though troubles wait at ev’ry turn,
I know I can go on.**
- 2. **When sorrow heals my soul
And burdens make me strong,
Though troubles wait at ev’ry turn,
I know I can go on.**

(Lyrics continue on next page)

3. **My sister in my heart,
My brother in my song,
Though troubles wait at every turn,
I know I can go on.**
4. **And though the journey is long,
The destination is near,
Though troubles wait at every turn,
I know I can go on.**
5. **So brothers take my hand,
And sisters sing my song,
When hope awaits at every turn,
I know we will go on.**

▲ Extinguishing the Chalice (№ 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: Words of Erica Jong

Postlude: “Day by Day” by Oscar Ahnfelt, arr. Mark Hayes.....Ria Yang

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

Next Week: October 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m. In-person & Online Rev. Ian White Maher
“Day of the People”

The word Holiday comes to us from the Old English *hāligdæg*, which means “holy day.” The U.S. has eleven federal holidays that tell the story of this nation. In recent years, we witnessed a popular movement to change this weekend to National Indigenous People’s Day, but on the federal calendar, it remains Columbus Day. Many people think this holiday has been with us for centuries, but it has only existed as a federal holiday since 1971. Columbus’ impact on the world is unquestionable, but is this the reason our nation recognizes this Holy Day?

Welcome, Guests!

We are glad you are here this morning! Please join us for refreshments after our service so that we may meet you, and visit our Greeter's Table in the Commons for information about Unitarian Universalism, our church, and membership.

- **Large-print** weekly bulletins and order of services are available from our ushers.
- **Personal receivers** tuned to the chapel sound system are available in the Commons.
- **Please turn cell phones off** or to worship mode during the service.
- **If your children are restless** in the chapel, please take them to the nursery, where you may continue to listen to the service.
- **Religious Education classes end fifteen minutes** after the scheduled end of the service to give parents an opportunity to attend our fellowship hour.

Serving Us This Morning

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church is a volunteer-based community with a few paid staff. From Sunday worship to governance to creek cleanup, we celebrate everyone who helps support our rich and diverse community.

Path to Membership

Membership is open to anyone fifteen years of age and older.

If interested, we suggest you do the following:

- Attend a Meet-and-Greet Luncheon (held after Sunday service about once per month).
- Attend an *Introduction to MVUC and UU* (held quarterly).
- Sign the Membership Book with the minister or a board member as witness.

All members are expected to contribute their time, talent, and treasure. To discuss your interest in joining MVUC, please talk with the Rev. Ian. He may be reached by email at minister@mvuc.org. You may also contact Jim Burke at MembershipChair@mvuc.org.

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

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

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A Welcoming Congregation and Certified Green Sanctuary

MVUC is a 10+ Year Honors Congregation member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Central East Region