



# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF MONTPELIER

**May 30, 2021, 10AM Eastern**

**Unitarian Church of Montpelier**

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## **“Our Longing for Community”**

*Rev. Mariela Pérez-Simons will share her story of going into a church for the first time when she was 18 years old, in Cuba under a dictatorship when religion was forbidden. This intimate reflection explores why we seek spiritual communities; why we have the impulse to come together to “worship” or connect with something larger than ourselves.*

*The service will also feature reflections from the UCM Chalice Circle- Owning Your Religion Past.*

**May Worship Theme:** Story

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/91253504912?pwd=NkVOVWVaOGtqbVJsOHZ0bTBTUnRaUT09>

Or Dial (929) 436-2866 and enter Meeting ID: 912 5350 4912, Passcode: 37861.

*The Online Zoom Sanctuary will open at 9:45AM for viewing announcements and sharing greetings in the chat.*

**Welcome** Verdis L. Robinson

**Prelude** Let It Be, by Lydia Lowery Busler

**Opening Words** Dell Waterhouse  
*Statement of Religious Ownership*

**Opening Hymn** My Life Flows on in Endless Song, No. 108 Kenric Kite  
Words: Early Quaker song-Vs. 1, 2, & 4 by Richard Lowry, Vs. 3 by Doris Plenn  
Music: American gospel tune

1. My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.

It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing!

2. What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.  
What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love prevails in heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing!
3. When tyrants tremble as they hear the bells of freedom ringing,  
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing!  
To prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;  
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing!
4. I lift mine eyes the cloud grows thin, I see the blue above it,  
And day by day this pathway clears since first I learned to love it.  
The warmth of peace restores my soul, a fountain ever springing  
I walk with grace since I am loved, how can I keep from singing!

**Chalice Lighting and Affirmation** Jo Romano

*Adapted from L. Griswold Williams*

*Love is the doctrine of this church,  
the quest for truth is its sacrament,  
and service is its prayer.  
To dwell together in peace,  
to seek knowledge in freedom,  
to serve human need,  
To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the divine.  
Thus do we covenant.*

**Reflection** Victoria Battin

*Statement of Religious Ownership*

**Musical Interlude** Kellie Walker Hart and Verdis L. Robinson

Nada Te Turbe No. 1047 in *Singing the Journey*. Music by Jacques Berthier of the Taize. Community of France, words adapted from St. Teresa of Avila

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten  
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.  
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten  
God alone fills us.

Nada te turbe, nada te espante

Quien a Dios tiene, nada le falta.  
Nada te turbe, nada te espante  
Solo Dios basta.

**Time of Meditation and Prayer** Verdis L. Robinson

**Sung Response** Spirit of Life, No. 123 UCM Congregation

Words and music by Carolyn McDade, born 1935

*Spirit of Life, come unto me.*

*Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.*

*Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;*

*Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.*

*Roots hold me close; wings set me free;*

*Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.*

**Reading** By Starhawk Rev. Mariela Pérez-Simons

**Sermon** “Our Longing for Community” Rev. Mariela Pérez-Simons

**Song** Woyaya, No. 1020 in Singing the Journey

Created by Paul Thompson, UU Church of the Palouse

Words & music by Loughty Amoa, Solomon Amarfio, Robert M. Bailey, Roy Bedeau, Francis T. Osei, Whendell K. Richardson, and Mac Tontoh (Chappell & Co., Inc., Transcribed from Ysaye M. Barnwell, born 1946, arr. Jeannie Gagne, born 1960)

We are going, heaven knows where we are going,  
But we know within. And we will get there,  
Heaven knows how we will get there, but we know we will.

It will be hard, we know, and the road will be muddy and rough,  
But we'll get there, heaven knows how we will get there,  
But we know we will.

Wo-ya-ya, wo-ya-ya, wo-ya-ya, wo-ya ya.

We are going, heaven knows where we are going,  
But we know within. And we will get there,  
heaven knows how we will get there, but we know we will.

Wo-ya-ya, wo-ya-ya, Wo-ya-ya, wo-ya-ya.

Wo-ya-ya yi-ya-ya, wo-ya-ya yi-ya-ya,

Wo-ya-ya yi-ya-ya, wo-ya-ya yi-ya-ya, Ya!

**Invitation to Generosity** Verdis L. Robinson

The Community Pouch recipients during the month of May are North Branch Nature Center and Vermont Interfaith Power and Light.

UCM Online Giving: <https://ucmvt.breezechms.com/give/online>

**Unison Mission Statement and Chalice Extinguishing** Verdis L. Robinson

*We welcome all  
as we build a loving community,  
to nurture each person's spiritual journey,  
serve human need,  
and protect the Earth, our home.*

**Announcements** Elaine Ball

**Benediction** Rev. Mariela Pérez-Simons

**Postlude** Alone, by Lydia Lowery Busler

*Stay on the Zoom meeting to join us for Coffee Hour  
immediately following the service.*