

WORSHIP ASSOCIATE SCRIPT: *(instructions in italics and parentheses)*

PRELUDE: *(minister and worship associate walk in together.....minister sits in chair closes to chalice table and worship associate goes to pulpit and begins with the "welcome")*

WELCOME: *(worship associate)*

"GOOD MORNING, MY NAME IS....., AND IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS YOUR WORSHIP ASSOCIATE TODAY. *(choose one of the following three "welcomings," a combination of them, or feel free to use your own words)* :

1. "WE COME TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY, SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER ON OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS, AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY OF TOLERANCE, BUT OF ACCEPTANCE, COMPASSION, AND OPEN MINDEDNESS. WELCOME TO THIS GOOD PLACE, TAPESTRY, A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION."

(or)

2. "WE COME TOGETHER IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP, WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME. WHATEVER THE FAITHS YOU HAVE KNOWN, OR THE FLAGS OF YOUR HERITAGE, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE. WHOEVER YOU ARE AND WHOMEVER YOU LOVE, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE. AND, WHETHER YOU RAN IN HERE TODAY ON LITTLE FEET, OR WALKED IN BRISKLY, OR AMBLED, OR ROLLED IN, YOU ARE WELCOME. HERE, WE AFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCEPTANCE AND COMPASSION. WE SEARCH FOR INSIGHT AND WHOLENESS, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OTHERS. WELCOME TO TAPESTRY, A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION."

(or)

3. "IF YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A CONGREGATION WHERE YOUR DOUBTS ARE RESPECTED, INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS ARE TREASURED, GRIEFS ARE COMFORTED, JOYS ARE CELEBRATED, YOUR CHILDREN ARE TAUGHT ABOUT OTHER RELIGIONS, CONCERNS ARE SHARED, REASON IS HONORED AND YOUR NEED TO SERVE OTHERS IS FOSTERED.....THEN PERHAPS YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR HOME. WELCOME TO TAPESTRY, A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION."

(in addition, if minister is NOT in the pulpit, please indicate when he/she will return, and mention the name of the guest speaker)

CHALICE LIGHTING: *(minister)*

(If minister is present, he/she will light the chalice and lead the "covenant" and "song of affirmation," while the worship associate remains at the pulpit. If there is a guest speaker, the worship associate lights the chalice and leads the "covenant" and "song of affirmation")

"EACH MORNING WE MUST HOLD OUT THE CHALICE OF OUR BEING TO RECEIVE, TO CARRY AND GIVE BACK. MAY WE KNOW ONCE AGAIN THAT WE ARE NOT ISOLATED BEINGS, BUT CONNECTED IN MYSTERY AND MIRACLE TO THE UNIVERSE, TO THE COMMUNITY, AND TO EACH OTHER."

COVENANT: *(minister)*

"PLEASE JOIN ME IN SAYING OUR COVENANT PRINTED IN THE ORDER OF SERVICE:

"LOVE IS THE SPIRIT OF THIS CONGREGATION AND SERVICE IS ITS LAW. THIS IS OUR GREAT COVENANT, TO DWELL TOGETHER IN PEACE, SEE TRUTH IN LOVE AND HELP ONE ANOTHER."

SONG OF AFFIRMATION: *(minister)*

"PLEASE SING OUR SONG OF AFFIRMATION PRINTED IN THE ORDER OF SERVICE:

FROM ALL WHO DWELL BELOW THE SKIES
LET SONGS OF HOPE AND FAITH ARISE.
LET PEACE, GOODWILL ON EARTH BE SUNG
THROUGH EVERY LAND, BY EVERY TONGUE."

(minister sits down)

GREETING ONE ANOTHER: *(worship associate)*

"WE ARE A WELCOMING CONGREGATION AND WE EXTEND A WARM GREETING TO ANY NEWCOMERS. WE INVITE THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST OR SECOND TIME, TO PLEASE STAND AND INTRODUCE YOURSELVES , IF YOU WISH, SO WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOU."

(PAUSE TO SEE IF ANYONE RESPONDS)

"THANK YOU! AFTER THE SERVICE PLEASE JOIN US IN THE SOCIAL HALL FOR REFRESHMENTS AND CONVERSATION. WE ALSO INVITE YOU TO STOP BY THE GREETER'S TABLE TO PICK UP AN INFORMATIONAL PACKET. IF YOU FEEL YOU HAVE FOUND A SPIRITUAL HOME WITH US, PLEASE TALK TO REV. OWEN-TOWLE, OR SOMEONE AT THE GREETER'S TABLE.....WE HEARTILY WELCOME YOU." NOW, PLEASE EXTEND A GREETING TO OLD AND NEW FRIENDS SITTING NEAR YOU."

(PAUSE)

REMINDER: *(worship associate)*

"PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT LATER TO READ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE ORDER OF SERVICE REGARDING EVENTS AT TAPESTRY. OUR VARIOUS GROUPS AND EVENTS REFLECT OUR VISION OF BEING A TRANSFORMATIONAL HOME FOR LIBERAL SPIRITUALITY, HERE AND IN THE WIDER WORLD, BUILDING COMMUNITY AND PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL ACTION. THIS IS OUR JOY, OUR SERVICE, AND OUR STRENGTH."

OPENING WORDS: *(worship associate)*

"TODAY'S OPENING WORDS ARE WRITTEN BY....." *(read words chosen by you or by the minister)*

GATHERING HYMN: *(worship associate)*

"PLEASE STAND AS WILLING AND ABLE TO SING OPENING HYMN #.....)
(if minister is in pulpit today, the worship associate may sit down as the hymn ends.....he/she may sit either in the chair by pulpit, or in the front row of sanctuary)

PASTORAL SORROWS AND CELEBRATIONS: *(minister)*

(these are gleaned from the caring committee and/or our minister and will be sent to you in advance)

"TODAY'S PASTORAL SORROWS AND CONCERNS INCLUDE:

TODAY'S PASTORAL JOYS INCLUDE:

(IF THERE ARE NONE, JUST CONTINUE ON)

"EVERY DAY, SORROWS AND CELEBRATIONS ARE EXPERIENCED IN THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND. PLEASE JOIN IN THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE PRINTED IN YOUR ORDER OF SERVICE."

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *(minister)*

"FOR YOUR JOYS, WE JOIN YOU IN CELEBRATION.

FOR YOUR SORROWS AND CONCERNS, MAY YOU FEEL OUR COMPASSION.

FOR ALL THAT IS SPOKEN AND UNSPOKEN, MAY THE CARING OF OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY SUSTAIN YOU."

TIME FOR ALL AGES: *(minister will announce, and it will be led by minister, or our DRE, someone from RECY, or the worship associate)*

"WOULD ALL THE CHILDREN PLEASE COME FORWARD AND JOIN US FOR THE TIME FOR ALL AGES."

(afterward)

"IT IS TIME FOR YOUR RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CLASSES, SO WE WILL SING

"AS YOU GO....."

BLESSING OF OUR CHILDREN: *(minister)*

"AS YOU GO, MAY JOY SURROUND YOU. AS YOU GO, GO IN PEACE. KNOW OUR LOVE IS WITH YOU ALWAYS, AS YOU GO, AS YOU GO."

READING: *(minister)*

"FOR OUR READING.....(Read chosen words)

CENTERING HYMN: *(minister)*

"PLEASE REMAIN SEATED AS WE SING CENTERING HYMN #.....," (or if special music presentation, introduce that) "FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENT COMMUNION."

SILENT COMMUNION:

(pause for a minute after hymn or special music, give a nod to pianist who will play a very brief interlude before the sermon)

SERMON: *(minister or guest speaker)*

(if there is a guest speaker, the worship associate will introduce him/her, including biographical info)

(afterward, if there is a guest speaker, thank him/her)

SHARING OF GIFTS: (minister)

"IN THE SPIRIT OF TAPESTRY MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORLD, WILL THE USHERS COME FORWARD AND RECEIVE THE OFFERING?

(hand out baskets)

(when the ushers complete the offering, one of them will unobtrusively give baskets to our office administrator or another designated person at the rear of the sanctuary. The ushers will NOT bring baskets forward)

CLOSING HYMN: (minister)

"PLEASE STAND AND JOIN IN SINGING OUR CLOSING HYMN #

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE: (minister)

(in SILENCE, the minister will extinguish the chalice, and at the same time, the worship associate will extinguish the altar candle on the side table. Both the minister/speaker and worship associate will then walk together to the rear of the sanctuary. If there is a guest speaker, the worship associate will extinguish the chalice only, and the "altar" candle will be extinguished after the service by the WA)

BENEDICTION: (minister)

(read your choice, standing at rear of sanctuary, and then minister/guest speaker and worship associate will exit the room and greet people in "lobby.")

POSTLUDE: