



October 16, 2022

## **When Love Comes to Visit: A Quilted Covenant**

*featuring guest speaker Victoria Poling*

Our UU response to the religious question “How are we to live?” is to make a covenant: a sacred promise to one another about how we stay in relationship, care about each other, and work together in good faith. As we go about the work of covenanting, it can be useful to hold an image in front of us and step into it, trying on a vision of how that covenant might look and feel. Today we’ll invite in the story of a mysterious guest and a quilt and listen for that sacred promise.

*Please help us ensure a meaningful experience for all in attendance online and in-person.  
Kindly silence your cell phones and turn off wifi on your device.*

### **Prelude**

*Troy Fisher (he/him)*

### **Morning Song**

*Troy Fisher*

Hymn #1014 “Answering the Call of Love”

Words & music: Jason Shelton

The promise of the Spirit:  
faith, hope and love abide.  
And so ev’ry soul  
is blessed and made whole;  
the truth in our hearts is our guide.

Chorus:

We are answering the call of love:  
hands joined together as hearts beat as one.  
Emboldened by faith, we dare to proclaim  
we are answering the call of love.

Sometimes we build a barrier  
to keep love tightly bound.  
Corrupted by fear,  
unwilling to hear,

denying the beauty we've found.

Chorus

A bright new day is dawning  
when love will not divide.  
Reflections of grace  
in ev'ry embrace,  
fulfilling the vision divine.

Chorus

### **Welcome**

*Anne Radford (she/her)*

### **Chalice Lighting**

Words by Lisa Friedman

*Anne Radford and Victoria Poling*

### **Opening Words**

From "A House for our Dreams"  
by Dori J. Somers

*Victoria Poling (she/her)*

### **Opening Hymn**

Hymn #354 "We Laugh, We Cry" (vs 1 & 4 only)  
Words & music: Shelley Jackson Denham

*Troy Fisher*

We laugh, we cry, we live, we die; we dance, we sing our song.  
We need to feel there's something here to which we can belong.  
We need to feel the freedom just to have some time alone.  
But most of all we need close friends we can call our very own.  
And we believe in life, and in the strength of love;  
and we have found a need to be together.  
We have our hearts to give, we have our thoughts to receive;  
and we believe that sharing is an answer.

We seek elusive answers to the questions of this life.  
We seek to put an end to all the waste of human strife.  
We search for truth, equality, and blessed peace of mind.  
And then, we come together here, to make sense of what we find.  
And we believe in life, and in the strength of love,  
and we have found a joy being together.  
And in our search for peace, maybe we'll finally see:  
even to question, truly is an answer.

### **Story: Sophie's Guest**

by Becky Brooks

*Victoria Poling*

### **Musical Interlude**

*Troy Fisher*

**Share the Plate***Anne Radford***Offertory***Troy Fisher***Ritual of Sharing from the Heart***Anne Radford***Prayer***Victoria Poling***Musical Response***Troy Fisher*

Hymn #123 "Spirit of Life"

Words & music: Carolyn McDade, harmony by Grace Lewis-McLaren

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***Anne Radford*

*"Pieces of Stars" by Victoria Poling*

**Musical Interlude***Troy Fisher***Sermon: Quilting a Covenant***Victoria Poling***Closing Hymn***Troy Fisher*

Hymn #1012 "When I Am Frightened"

Words & music: Shelley Jackson Denham, arr. Jeannie Gagne

When I am frightened, will you reassure me?

When I'm uncertain, will you hold my hand?

Will you be strong for me, sing to me quietly?

Will you share some of your stories with me?

If you will show me compassion,

then I may learn to care as you do,

then I may learn to care.

When I am angry, will you still embrace me?

When I am thoughtless, will you understand?

Will you believe in me, stand by me willingly?

Will you share some of your questions with me?

If you will show me acceptance,

then I may learn to give as you do,

then I may learn to give.

When I am troubled, will you listen to me?  
When I am lonely, will you be my friend?  
Will you be there for me, comfort me tenderly?  
Will you share some of your feelings with me?  
If you will show me commitment,  
then I may learn to love as you do,  
then I may learn to love.

### **Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice**

Words by Sarah York

*Victoria Poling*

### **Unison Benediction**

Words: Rev. Mary Gear / Music: Troy Arnold Fisher

*Troy Fisher*

May you know the Spirit in you.  
May you know the Spirit in me.  
With loving and healing, doing and being,  
May you know the Spirit in All.

### **Postlude**

*Troy Fisher*

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Given what you've heard this month, how do you understand "Covenant" so far?
2. What is interesting/confusing? What are you curious to learn more about?

**Please consider staying for the Board Listening Session which will take place starting at 11:30 a.m.**

**Next Sunday:** "Reflections on Covenant" with Rev. Mary Gear

**Share the Plate Offering:** For the month of October, our Share the Plate recipient is the Olympia Free Clinic.

If you write a check, be sure to make a notation indicating "pledge" if it is a pledge payment. Other donations will benefit the Share the Plate program. Checks can be mailed to OUUC at 2315 Division St NW Olympia WA 98502. Donate online at <https://onrealm.org/OUUC/give/offering>

Donate by text. Text "OUUC offering" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.