



Sunday, August 10, 2025

“If We Can Keep It”

with Rev. Linda Hart

At the Continental Congress as the final vote was taken,
Elizabeth Willing Powel asked Benjamin Franklin,
“Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?”

He famously replied, “A republic, if we can keep it!”

We'll reflect on the state of the republic, using some famous words
from a Unitarian forefather, found in a surprising place.

At OUUC, masks are welcome and optional. Please join us online if you don't feel well.
Kindly put your cell phones into Airplane Mode to help us ensure a meaningful experience
for all in attendance, onsite and online.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the sanctuary at the tech desk.

Prelude

Troy Fisher (he/him)

Morning Song

Congregation

Hymn #212 “We Are Dancing Sarah’s Circle”

Words: Carole A. Etzler

Music: African American spiritual

Welcome

Christine Parke (she/her)

Chalice Lighting

Christine Parke

with the words of Rev. Cindy Landrum

Opening Words

Rev. Linda Hart (she/her)

adapted from “Being Sanctuary”

by Jo VonRue and Linette Lowe

Opening Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #182 “O, the Beauty in a Life”

Words: Based on a text by Bishop Toribio Quimada

Music: Traditional Visayan (Filipino) folk tune

Story For All

Rev. Sara Lewis

What Do You Do With a Chance

written by Kobi Yamada, illustrated by Mae Besom,
and shared with permission from the publisher:

@compendiumliveinspired

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Share the Plate Offering

Christine Parke

Offertory

Troy Fisher

Ritual of Sharing From the Heart

Christine Parke

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Linda Hart

Musical Response

Congregation

Hymn #318 “We Would Be One”

Words: Samuel Anthony Wright

Music: Jean Sibelius, arr. from *The Hymnal*, 1933

Reading 1

Christine Parke

from You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train

by Howard Zinn

Reading 2

Rev. Linda Hart

from a July 2024 essay by Rebecca Solnit on
“the Power of Speech to Shape the Future”

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Sermon: If We Can Keep It

Rev. Linda Hart

Closing Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #288 “All Are Architects”

Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Music: Thomas Benjamin

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Linda Hart

adapted from words often attributed to

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection questions:

- Are there times when you have been inspired by people acting magnificently and doing beautiful things?
- Were you surprised by the UU and US history that Rev. Linda shared today?
- How are you holding up these days?

Next Sunday, August 17, 2025, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite): “What is Home?” with Rev. Ken Jones

Rev. Ken Jones has worked with people who don't have buildings to stay in, and the agencies trying to assist them, for many years now. Most everyone agrees that it is an urgent need and effective solutions are difficult to come by. But the fact that we have this problem raises some deeper questions about what a “home” is and why it is so important in our culture today.

Content Warning: Rev. Ken Jones will be talking about people without homes.

Guest Minister Bio: The Rev. Ken Jones is semi-retired from Ministry in UU Congregations, having served in Tacoma, Yakima, and Ellensburg, Washington and Hood River, Oregon over the last twenty-five years. His “home” is in Yakima, but he is eager to spend more time wandering in his mini camper van (in which he'll be traveling to Olympia for this service!)

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for July and August is GRUB's Growing Home Collective:

Garden-Raised Bounty (GRuB)'s program, Growing Home Collective, centers the reality that Black people's huge contribution of genius, highly skilled, and stolen labor was crucial in creating the United States. Including a reparations-based approach, Growing Home Collective reduces barriers for Black people to access GRuB programs, resources, and leadership opportunities. Led by an advisory group with Black staff & community members, this group co-creates affinity programming by, with and for Black people, to center Black self-determination, creativity and lived experience.

If you write a check, please note "PLEDGE" if it is a pledge payment. All other donations in the basket will benefit the Share the Plate program.

- Checks can be mailed to: 2306 East End 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. Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

Hiroya Tsukamoto, a one of a kind composer, guitarist, and singer-songwriter from Kyoto, Japan, is returning to Olympia for **one performance only:** a LIVE concert in the OUUC sanctuary at **7 pm on Sunday, August 17th**. Admission is free, and donations will be gratefully accepted at the door or via a link in the chat. Those who wish to listen remotely can find the Zoom link here: <https://www.ouuc.org/hiroya/>

Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update: <https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>