



“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”

~ John Lubbock, *The Use Of Life*

Sunday, July 12th, 2026
“Freedom and Liberty for All?”

with Rev.Dr. Silvia Behrend

Many of you may ask: Wait: shouldn't this be 'Liberty and Justice for all'? Isn't this in the Constitution? It most certainly is and the facts which dictated the separation of the colonies from the British monarchy are as evident today as they were in 1776. We will explore the roots of Freedom from and Freedom to, how it relates to Liberty and whether Justice is possible when the founding tenets of freedom and liberty are not understood or lived out.

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 #1035 “Freedom Is Coming”

Words & music: South Africa, 20th Cent.

Oh freedom, oh freedom,
oh freedom, freedom is coming!
Oh yes I know, oh yes I know,
oh yes I know, freedom is coming!
Oh freedom, oh freedom,
oh freedom, freedom is coming!

Welcome

*Curtis Tanner
(he/him)*

Chalice Lighting

*Rev. Dr. Silvia
Behrend (she/her)*

Opening Words

“Sit with Me” by Rev. Dr. Silvia Behrend

*Rev. Dr. Silvia
Behrend*

Opening Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #1054 “Let This Be a House of Peace”

Words: Jim Scott, inspired by Kenneth Patton / Music:
Jim Scott

Let this be a house of peace,
Of nature and humanity,
of sorrow and elation,
Let this be our house,
A haven for the healing,
An open room for question,
and our inspiration.

Chorus:

Let this be a house of peace.
Let this be our house of peace.
Let this be a house of freedom;
Guardian of dignity
and worth held deep inside us,
Let this be our house,
A platform for the free voice,
Where all our sacred differences
here shall not divide us.

Chorus:

Let this be a house of peace.
Let this be our house of peace.
Let all in this house seek truth,
Where scientists and mystics,
abide in rev'rence here,
Let this be our house,
A house of our creation,
Where works of art and melodies
consecrate the atmosphere.

Chorus:

Let this be a house of peace.
Let this be our house of peace.
Let this be a house of prophesy,
May vision, for our children
Be our common theme.
Let this be our house
Of myth and lore and legend,
Our trove of ancient story,
and cradle of most tender dreams.

Chorus:

Let this be a house of peace.
Let this be our house of peace.

Story For All

"For such a time as this" by Rev. Dr. Silvia Behrend

*Rev. Dr. Silvia
Behrend*

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Share the Plate Offering

Curtis Tanner

Offertory

Troy Fisher

Ritual of Sharing from the Heart

*Rev. Dr. Silvia
Behrend*

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Dr. Silvia

Behrend

Musical Response

Congregation

Hymn #100 “I’ve got Peace Like a River”

Words & music: Marvin Frey

I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul. (2x)

I’ve got joy like a fountain...
I’ve got love like an ocean...
I’ve got pain like an arrow...
I’ve got tears like the raindrops ...
I’ve got strength like a mountain ...

Reading

Curtis Tanner

“The New Colossus” By Emma Lazarus

Part 1: Freedom

Rev. Dr. Silvia

Behrend

Musical Interlude

Flemming Behrend

“Free”

[guitar/vocal]

Words & music: Stevie Wonder

Free
Like the river
Flowing freely
Through infinity

Free
To be sure of
What I am and
Who I need not be

Free
From all worries
Worries prey on
Oneself's troubled mind

Freer than the clock hands
Tickin' way the times
Freer than the meaning
Of free that man defines

Life
Running through me
'Til I feel
My father God has called

Me
Having nothin'
But possessing
Riches more than all

And I'm free
To be nowhere
But every
Place I need to be

Freer than a sunbeam
Shining through my soul
Free from feelin' heat
Or knowing bitter cold

Free
From conceiving
The beginning
For that's the infinite start

I'm gone
But still living

Life goes on
Without a beating heart, whoa

Free, hmm
Like the vision
That the mind of
Only you can see

Freer than a raindrop
Falling from the sky
Freer than a smile
In a baby's sleepin' eyes, yeah

I'm free
Like the river
Flowin' freely
Through infinity

Whoa, free
To be sure
Of what I am and
Who I need to be

And I'm much freer
Than the meaning
Of the word free that man who
Man defines

Free, yeah
Like the vision
That the mind of
Only, only you will ever see

Hey-yeah, free
Like the river
My life goes on
And on through infinity

Part 2: Liberty and Justice

*Rev. Dr. Silvia
Behrend*

Closing Hymn

Congregation

“We Will Rise Together”

Words: Jan Elicker / Music: Clif Hardin

We will rise* together, you and I,
Rise together, hand in hand.
Come on! We will rise together, heads held high.
We will reach the promised land.

Come my friend, I see a brighter day,
Where freedom rings for ev'ryone.
Come along, and we will find a way,
To justice, rising like the sun.

We will sing together, you and I,
Sing together, hand in hand.
Come on! We will sing together, heads held high.
We will reach the promised land.

Come my friend, I see a brighter day,
Where freedom rings for ev'ryone.
Come along, and we will find a way,
To justice, rising like the sun.

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

*Rev. Dr. Silvia
Behrend*

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection Questions:

1. If freedom is an internal state of being, what are you free from and free to?
2. What are concrete ways you can move more freely to move towards liberty and justice?
3. Are there limits to personal freedom in a collective?

There is no after service forum today, forums will return in September.

Next Sunday, July 19th, 2026, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):
“Getting Through” with Rev. Linda Hart

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for July and August is Puget Sound Estuarium:

OUUC member Diana Larsen-Mills and her husband Ken Guza founded Puget Sound Estuarium in 2007. The Estuarium focuses on environmental learning, stewardship and community engagement. Its science-based programs serve learners from pre-kindergarten through adulthood, helping people understand and protect the waters, shorelines, species, and estuaries of the South Sound. The “Share the Plate” proceeds will enhance the Estuarium’s scholarship fund so that these learning opportunities will be accessible to all.

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
-

We are collecting food for immigrant families for the next few weeks. Please check out the list of desired foods at the display in the Commons during coffee hour. For questions or more information **contact Naki Stevens.**

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