

**BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Order of Service Script for December 18, 2016**

Gathering

.....
Greetings & Announcements Dena Condron, Worship Associate

Good morning.

I am _____,

and I'd like to welcome you to the

BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship where,

Moved by love,

We share lifelong journeys of growth, wonder and healing,

Nurturing wholeness in society and spirit,

Creating a community of justice and compassion

I'd like to give a special welcome

to our guests or newcomers this morning!

If you haven't already,

please stop by our visitors' center in the front hallway

near where you came in.

There you can also make a name-tag for yourself

and find more information about Unitarian Universalism,

BuxMont Fellowship and upcoming events.

And if you need an Order of Service, hearing assist device,

large print hymnal or a copy of the hymnal in Braille,

one of our ushers can help you.

There are *Announcements* printed in the Order of Service.

We invite you to take the time to read them, and if you want, take them home with you as a reminder.

I'd like to highlight these Announcements in particular...

*Read, energetically and efficiently, the three to five **brief highlights**...*

Whether you are guest, friend or member, it is good to see you today and we are glad you are here! Please join us in the Social Hall following the Service for refreshments and conversation.

Centering

(sound the small gong, to signal the beginning of worship)

Prelude *(begins after gong tones fades away...)*

Words of Welcome

WA

This is a free, creedless religious congregation.
In the discipline of truth
and the spirit of universal kinship,
we join together in a cooperative quest
for religious and ethical values,
seeking to apply these values
to the development of character,
enrichment of the spirit, and service to all.
You are welcome here,
whatever your age, gender or gender identity,
physical or mental capabilities,
social graces,
beauty of body or spirit, sexual orientation,
ethnic origin, or position in life.
Join us as we journey toward peace and justice
for all persons.

Opening Words #417

Rev. Susan

(by Unitarian Universalist minister Barbara J. Pescan)

For the beauty of the earth,
this spinning blue-green ball, yes!
Gaia, mother of everything,
we walk gently across your back
to come together again
in this place:
to remember how we can live,
to remember who we are,
to create how we will be.
Gaia, our home,
the lap in which we live –
welcome us.

Kindling the Chalice Flame

WA

The celebration of the Winter Solstice is a time
when hope is kindled out of the deepest darkness.
And week after week,
we Unitarian Universalists light our chalice
as a beacon of hope.
So today we kindle this flame in celebration -
to remind ourselves
of the hope and light we all carry.

Please rise in body or spirit as we kindle this chalice flame,
symbol of our chosen faith.

(WA or someone else kindles flame...)

May the light we now kindle inspire us to use our power to heal with love, to help
with compassion, to bless with joy,
to serve the spirit of freedom in the fullness of community.

And now let us join in singing our Opening Hymn, #1063 *Winter Solstice Chant* in the teal hymnal .

Hymn #1063 *Winter Solstice Chant*

Community

Sharing of Sorrows and Joys Rev. Susan

We set aside these few moments for the Sharing of Sorrows and Joys,
to remember the significant events or people in our lives...
If you come this morning with a personal sorrow weighing on your heart that would be eased by letting this community know, or a joy bursting in your very being that simply must be shared, please raise your hand and an usher will come by with a microphone. Let us all be mindful of this sacred time... thoughtful in our speaking and listening... and concise in our sharing ... Please say your name and keep your time with the microphone to a short sentence or two so we have time for everyone. The embrace of this community will hold and nurture all that is shared – in silence and spoken word.

****when sharing is completed...****

Filled with the gracious spirit of life,
we honor our joys and our sorrows...
those shared this morning

and those that remain unspoken,
held in the privacy of our hearts...
all are in the care of this community,
and we give thanks to be in this company
of thoughtful minds, loving hearts,
generous spirits and helpful hands.

Prayer for the Community

Spirit of Life and Love

that shapes us and guides us in every way,
from how we celebrate
to how we live with disappointment and fear,
teach us how to travel the geography of our souls,
the long journeys around and through and into and out of
the daily labyrinths of our lives.

Each turning, each returning
is of how we are called
and how we move against and away and into and with
that calling...

one heartbeat and moment of grace at a time.

Amen and blesséd be...

Receiving



Story Part I *Great Star Tiamat*

NARRATOR

Dawn Star Sarahs-Borchelt

In the beginning was the Great Radiance.
All light, all sound, all matter came into being
in a blinding flash that was the Great Radiance.
This was the birth of Space.

This was the birth of Time.
This was the Creation of the Universe.
We know this is so
because science tells us this is so.
And so today, as we gather to celebrate the Winter Solstice,
we tell again the Great Story,
to sing and celebrate our luminous story of Creation.

After the Great Radiance, matter and energy
were drawn into Galaxies, as the Universe expanded.
The galaxies swirled into great spirals
as the Universe expanded.
In each galaxy, billions and billions of stars were born.
Flaming into existence, billions and billions of stars were born.

Today we will tell the story of one very special galaxy.
We will tell the story of the Milky Way Galaxy.
And we will begin with the story of one star,
one very special star in this very special galaxy.

THE GREAT STAR TIAMAT **Rak**

Reverend Dr. Susan Veronica

I am the Great Star Tiamat
Behold! Behold!
I was among the first generation of stars
born to the Milky Way Galaxy.
I am a very special star.
For I am the Great Star Tiamat.
Behold! Behold!

Before me there was only hydrogen,
only hydrogen gas throughout the whole galaxy.
But in my core, in my flaming hot core,
I forged all the heavier elements.

I forged iron and silver and gold and titanium.
I forged oxygen and nitrogen and sulfur and sodium.
I forged sulphur and phosphorus that now swim in the sea.
I forged calcium and carbon and everything in thee.

But gifts are to be given, and so in my prime
I went supernova for the very first time.
Out of my burning body came elements galore.
And so the galaxy became so very much more.
You and you and you and you and you
are the elements today.

Please join in a short Responsive Reading - the words are in your Order of Service.

Responsive Reading

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Carbon, oxygen, copper, nitrogen,

silver, sodium, iron and trace elements.

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Anthem

Out of the Stars,

words by Robert T. Weston, Music by Betsy Jo Angebrannt

9:15 Adult Choir; 11:15 Family Choir

Story Part II *Prophet of Planetary Futures*

NARRATOR:

Dawn Star Sarahs-Borchelt

Out of the ashes of Tiamat
out of the stardust of that great supernova,
rose a new star, a much smaller star,
but a very fine star indeed.

This was Sol, the Sun.

And around Sol swirled more of Tiamat's gifts,
more stardust that gathered and gathered
Into eight planets.

Eight *planets* now gracefully circled the sun.

Oh what would the future hold for them?

Oh what would become of them?

PROPHET OF PLANETARY FUTURES

Jim Phynn/Buzz Neeld

I know what will become of them!

For I am the Prophet of Planetary Futures.

Behold! Behold!

I know what will become of the planets circling Sol.

For I am the Prophet of Planetary Futures.

Behold! Behold!

Eight planets all made from the gifts of a star.

Eight planets all circling - how lovely they are!

And let there be moons and asteroids, too.

Comets and dust clouds - quite more than a few.

They each circle the sun and dapple the sky.

They swoop and they sweep and they teach us to fly.

Some are gigantic, while others are small.
But each is quite lovely, to each and to all.
You and you and you and you and you
are the planets today.

Please join in a short Responsive Reading - the words are in your Order of Service

Responsive Reading

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars,

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Song *The Family of the Sun*

(tune: *Farmer in the Dell*; source: Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum)

Story Part III *The Spark of Life*

NARRATOR:

Dawn Star Sarahs-Borchelt

And so the eight planets circled the sun.

Each and all were magnificent in their own special way.

But one planet, one planet of the eight,
had very special powers, indeed.

Because in its great waters, up from the depths,
perhaps in one little tide pool

there arose a spark that changed the universe.

And this spark would grow and grow
on this one little planet.

It would transform and evolve,

mixing and matching the particles of stardust
into a most wondrous thing.

What was this mysterious spark?

THE SPARK OF LIFE

Dena Condrón

I know what that mysterious spark was.

For I am the Spark of Life.

Behold! Behold!

I arose upon the Earth.

And out of me came all living things.

Behold! Behold!

Out of the plumes of volcanoes
and sloshing through the sea.

I gathered up the stardust
and I turned it into thee.

I first made a microbe
who then made two, then four.

Then eight, then sixteen,
and soon very many more.

I transformed into vision;

I evolved into flight.

I grew fearsome teeth;
and then I prowled the long night.

I sent plants reaching skyward,
to catch the gift of the sun.

I made animals slither
and then I made them run.

*You and you and you and you and you
are the creatures today.*

Please join in a short Responsive Reading - the words are in your Order of Service.

Responsive Reading

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Insects, Mammals, Trees, Mollusks,

Birds, Amphibians, Flowering Plants, and microbes galore.

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.

Music *Children of the Universe*

words by John Andrew Storey; music by Jason Shelton

Story Part IV *The Magic of Mind*

NARRATOR:

Dawn Star Sarahs-Borchelt

And so came the sharks and the fishes of the sea.

Yes, out of this first tiny spark of life, came everything
that now glides and sings and struts and sways.

Trilobites came and trilobites went.

Dinosaurs came and dinosaurs went.

But through it all, something mysterious was growing.

Something that would give birth to satisfaction and bliss.

It would yield curiosity too, and intention and will.

What was this mystery?

THE MAGIC OF MIND

John Hook

I know the great mystery.

For the mystery is me.

I am the Magic of Mind.
Behold! Behold!
I know whence comes frustration and fear.
I know of satisfaction and bliss.
For I am the Magic of Mind.
Behold! Behold!

Mind was lurking in the first inkling of life.
Mind was what led to longing and strife.
Mind drove a fish to seek out the land.
That same mind later enticed Ant to dig into sand.
Then one day Mind made a very big turn.
It began talking, mind to mind, and it started to learn.
It wondered how the Universe had come into being.
So it invented science to explain all it was seeing.
It invented art and story and music galore.
Mind invented poetry and candles and very much more.
*You and you and you and you and you
are all that Mind is today.*

Please join in a short Responsive Reading - the words are in your Order of Service.

Responsive Reading:

*Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.
Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.
Love, Emptiness, Dreams, Fear
Hope, Philosophy, Creativity, and the whole human race.
Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.
Gift of Tiamat, out of the stardust we are born.*

Commitment

The Offering

WA

The Offering in liberal religion is a vital part of our history of faith.

As people who freely choose to be here,
our voluntary giving is symbolic of that freedom of choice.

It is one of the ways we share what we have with others.

We encourage your generosity
and invite you to give as you are able.

And each week at BuxMont we share our offering –

all of the non-pledge cash in our baskets –
with a different cause or organization in the community.

For the month of December this collection will be shared with *Beds for Kids*, a project of *One House at a Time*...

In some families there aren't enough ends for everyone,
and children are often left to sleep on the floor,
on sofas, or crowded into bed with several family members.

The *Beds for Kids* program delivers beds, bedding and tools that encourage healthy bedtime habits (like books and toothbrushes) directly to the homes of children in need.

With beds of their very own, children can get enough of the quality sleep they need to thrive.

As we give today both to our Fellowship and to *Beds for Kids*,
let us be as generous as possible within our means
and take pleasure in the good that our giving will do.

We will now receive the morning offering.

Offertory - (original "Star Trek" theme???)

WA: (after collection)

For these gifts, and what they represent to our Fellowship
and to the wider world, we are truly grateful.

We dedicate these gifts as we affirm our lives in community.

Returning

Stardust Ritual

NARRATOR:

Dawn Star Sarahs-Borchelt

And so Mind tells the Story of the Universe.

Mind tells of the gift of the Great Star Tiamat.

Mind invents the Prophet of Planetary Futures.

Mind celebrates the Spark of Life.

And Mind contemplates its own mystery:

the Magic of Mind.

So let us evoke silently,

in our own minds, whatever is greatest within us.

What is bursting to radiate out into the New Year,

like the supernova of Tiamat?

What is circling like planets around our own Soul?

What can be kindled into a spark that enlivens our World?

What does Mind wish to bring forth?

Ring bell/gong for silent meditation - three deep breaths...

Introduction

Dawn Star?

Humans are star stuff evolved to the point that it can begin to know and
marvel at its own magnificent **STORY**.

Our **ANCESTORS** include ancient stars.

Stars are part of our **GENEALOGY**.

Almost all the atoms of **HYDROGEN** within water,
within our bodies, and everywhere else
on and within Earth
are more than 13 billion years old.
If many of the atoms within us are 13 billion years old,
and as "we" are our bodies, not just our minds,
then, in a way, **WE TOO ARE 13 BILLION YEARS OLD.**

We are made of STARDUST — recycled stardust!

We are star stuff, PONDERING the stars.
Humans are stardust
evolved to the point that matter can begin
to know and marvel at its own magnificent STORY.
No creature on Earth before us ever learned the story of the stars.

As the nights are colder and longer than they have been,
we look up at the stars and see our own story.

We invite you to come forward now
and receive a reminder that you are star-stuff,
that we are part of this great mystery.

*people come forward to receive a smudge of glitter
on their face or back of their hands...*

Closing Words - Blessing

Rev. Susan?

Standing still in this solstice moment,
we can better see the light that is coming,
shining in through the darkness.
And we are stars, star-stuff,
we are the light piercing the darkness...

Look to the light,
tend the bright flame
of new hope breaking in at this time of year.

Please rise in body or spirit as we join in singing our closing hymn, *Alleluia! Sang Stars*, #363 in the grey hymnal
(congregation stands and remains standing...)

Closing Hymn #363 *Alleluia! Sang Stars*

Extinguishing the Chalice

WA

(use the red lid in pulpit to extinguish flame safely)

Please remain standing as we extinguish the chalice flame...

*We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,
the warmth of community or the fire of commitment.*

These we carry in our hearts wherever we go.

Let your light shine!

Benediction

Postlude