



Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website

Is “Unity” a Problem?

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, Hayward, CA, 23 September 2020

CHALICE LIGHTING

0.5 min

One God, many faces. One family, many races. One truth, many paths. One heart, many complexities. One light, many reflections. One world, many imperfections. ONE. We are all one, but many.”
Suzy Kassem

OPENING SONG: (Imagine John Lennon)

4 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6svOHFSAH8>

OPENING WORDS

1 min

The downfall of the attempts of governments and leaders to unite mankind is found in this- in the wrong message that we should see everyone as the same. This is the root of the failure of harmony. Because the truth is, we should not all see everyone as the same! We are not the same! We are made of different colours and we have different cultures. We are all different! But the key to this door is to look at these differences, respect these differences, learn from and about these differences, and grow in and with these differences. We are all different. We are not the same. But that's beautiful. And that's okay. In the quest for unity and peace, we cannot blind ourselves and expect to be all the same. Because in this, we all have an underlying belief that everyone should be the same as us at some point. We are not on a journey to become the same or to be the same. But we are on a journey to see that in all of our differences, that is what makes us beautiful as a human race, and if we are ever to grow, we ought to learn and always learn some more.

C. JoyBell C.

MEDITATION / CENTERING

3 min

We are all equal in the fact that we are all different. We are all the same in the fact that we will never be the same. We are united by the reality that all colours and all cultures are distinct & individual. We are harmonious in the reality that we are all held to this earth by the same gravity. We don't share blood, but we share the air that keeps us alive. I will not blind myself and say that my black brother is not different from me. I will not blind myself and say that my brown sister is not different from me. But my black brother is he as much as I am me. But my brown sister is she as much as I am me.

C. JoyBell C.

The first sound of the gong brings us to silence. Please take time to center yourself, and temporarily push aside whatever might be preventing you from participating fully in tonight's session. The second sound of the gong returns us to each other's presence.

CHECK-IN (2 ROUNDS)

40 min

Please share some thing(s) about your life since last we met. How are you managing in the face of COVID-19 PLUS the heat and the fires? Has anything occurred that has caused you to pause and take stock of where you are in relation to where you planned to be?

SONG: Get Together (Youngbloods)

4 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s14FPllkrWM>

INTRODUCTORY CONSIDERATIONS

5 min

Unity vs. Union

Unity and union are related terms. The difference between unity and union is that unity is (uncountable) oneness; the state or fact of being one undivided entity, while union is (uncountable) the state of being united or joined.

When I was a little boy, I heard my dad contrast these two ideas, union and unity, with an interesting illustration. He said, "You can tie two cats' tails together and hang them over a clothes line. You may have union, but you do not have unity.

Neal Pollard

Declaration of Human Unity

FROM: WORLD PUBLIC FORUM ◇ P0 Box 12068 ◇ San Francisco, California 94112 USA ◇
www.HumanUnity.org

Declaration of Human Unity

Whereas, the very existence of all humans is substantially at risk, many of our institutions are impaired, and the possibilities of human life are unfulfilled, and

Whereas, our action together as humans for our common survival and fulfillment is becoming a clear necessity, and

Whereas, effective means of communication are now available to unite all humans and therefore to maximize the prospects of all humans for a secure and full life,

We hereby declare our unity as human beings beyond all our differences.

We invite all people throughout the world to act together as humans in support of our shared priorities from survival to fulfillment. It is our lives as humans that we share in common beyond all our differences such as race, sex, religion, class, culture, and nationality. We affirm the simple fact of our humanness as the bedrock reality of our lives and institutions. By bringing our common humanness to the foreground of our lives, we will be able to act together with all other humans to meet our priority needs and shared aspirations.

QUOTES ABOUT UNITY**20 min****Good Quotes**

As the unity of the modern world becomes increasingly a technological rather than a social affair, the techniques of the arts provide the most valuable means of insight into the real direction of our own collective purposes.

Marshall McLuhan

Mankind, the spirit of the earth, the synthesis of individuals and peoples, the paradoxical conciliation of the element with the whole, and of unity with multitude --all these are called Utopian, and yet they are biologically necessary.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

The incomparable greatness of the religions of the East lies in their having been second to none in vibrating with the passion for unity. This note, which is essential to every form of mysticism, has even penetrated them so deeply that we find ourselves falling under a spell simply by uttering the names of their Gods.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

I dream of the realization of the unity of Africa, whereby its leaders combine in their efforts to solve the problems of this continent. I dream of our vast deserts, of our forests, of all our great wildernesses.

Nelson Mandela

The realms of life are many. For each one, special sciences develop. But life itself is a unity, and the more deeply the sciences try to penetrate into their separate realms, the more they withdraw themselves from the vision of the world as a living whole.

Rudolf Steiner

Where destruction is the motive, unity is dangerous. For example, if I have evil intent and I galvanize that evil intent with many others, the capacity to destroy is immense. Where goodness is the motive, unity is phenomenal and actually has some good issues to it.

Ravi Zacharias

But the perception of life as an organic unity is a slow achievement, and depends for its growth on a people's entry into the main current of world events.

Muhammad Iqbal

Human rights, of course, must include the right to religious freedom, understood as the expression of a dimension that is at once individual and communitarian --a vision that brings out the unity of the person while clearly distinguishing between the dimension of the citizen and that of the believer.

Pope Benedict XVI

Creating unity and compassion and understanding of each of our brothers and sisters is so powerful. We have to preach that to the ones that don't want to listen and understand.

Bubba Wallace

Every government must consider the security of the country. That is just part of the responsibilities of any government. But true security can only come out of unity within a country where there are so many ethnic nationalities.

Aung San Suu Kyi

I do believe that the original sources of all religions should be taught, because with that we will find our similarities, not just our differences. I believe that if Mohammed, Buddha, Jesus, and Moses all got together they

would be best of friends because the spiritual basis of all religions is something that builds unity.

Yehuda Berg

He who experiences the unity of life sees his own Self in all beings, and all beings in his own Self, and looks on everything with an impartial eye.

Buddha

It is important for people to be able to read all sides of every question; for a feeling of national unity does not come from one-sided or inadequate information, but from a sense of freedom impartially secured and of opportunity equalized by a just government.

Jeannette Rankin

History teaches us that unity is strength, and cautions us to submerge and overcome our differences in the quest for common goals, to strive, with all our combined strength, for the path to true African brotherhood and unity.

Haile Selassie

"Questionable" Quotes

Precision, speed, unambiguity, knowledge of files, continuity, discretion, unity, strict subordination, reduction of friction and of material and personal costs --these are raised to the optimum point in the strictly bureaucratic administration.

Max Weber

When you open your heart to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice. The Bible tells us, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity."

Donald Trump

It is the State which educates its citizens in civic virtue, gives them a consciousness of their mission and welds them into unity.

Benito Mussolini

Only peril can bring the French together. One can't impose unity out of the blue on a country that has 265 different kinds of cheese.

Charles de Gaulle

While the crash only took place six months ago, I am convinced we have now passed the worst, and with continued unity of effort, we shall rapidly recover. There is one certainty of the future of a people of the resources, intelligence and character of the people of the United States --that is, prosperity.

Herbert Hoover

The single-hearted unity is the lifeblood of Juche Korea and the dynamic force for a leap forward, and we must invariably follow the road of self-reliance and self-development--this is the invaluable truth of the Juche revolution confirmed by our army's and people's gigantic struggle in 2016.

Kim Jong-un

SONG: One Love (Bob Marley)

5 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMbvftTEUs>

PREPARATION FOR GROUP REFLECTION

1 min

Read the questions for reflection, one by one.

BREAK

10 min

GROUP REFLECTION

35 min

Two rounds. Or, we can respectfully discuss the issues as they come up, with each participant having their

"first round" say, followed by discussion of what was said, then proceeding to the next participant. Take a moment of silence and consider your ideas about unity.

- Should we aspire to, and how can we achieve, unity with respect to ourselves as individuals, as members of a family or community, and as inhabitants of the world.
- How do you feel about Human Unity's Declaration of Human Unity? Does it stand a chance of being adopted? By whom? Why or why not?
- Which of the quotes particularly resonated with you, positively or negatively, and why?

SONG: Get Together (Mark Stegelman) 5 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCy1L4WbYuA>

SESSION FEEDBACK AND FUTURE PLANS 5 min

- How did the session go for you?
- Do we need to make any format changes to make it more useful to you?
- Any interest in designing or helping with session plans?
- Should we revisit / modify our covenant?

SONG: Urinin Hana—We Are One (Emma's Revolution) 5 min

<https://emmasrevolution.com/track/1287155/we-are-one>

EXTINGUISH CHALICE / CLOSING WORDS 1 min

Love does not cost anything. Kind words and deeds do not cost anything. The real beauty of the world is equal for everyone to see. It was given by God equally to all, without restrictions.

Everyone, was given a beautiful vehicle in which to express love to others. Feelings are free to express and give to ourselves and each other through our willingness to give and care.

What is complicated about this ... Why have we made others feel they have to climb mountains and swim oceans in order to make a difference.

All we need to understand my friends, is that human life was given equally to us all, not partially but in totality.

The sun was given to all. It does not shine on the few. So, just as nature is indifferent to our station or situation, we need to know that we are all equal. We need to focus on the things that are constant and not place our values on things that can be blown away with the next, great, wind.

Value life in what ever house it dwells. For when it comes time that we are all stripped to bare bones before the divine and facing eternity, we will understand that the only law we were meant to follow, was to love ourselves and each other. Nothing more ... nothing less.

Carla Jo Masterson

LYRICS FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING SGM SESSION 68

Imagine (John Lennon)

Imagine there's no heaven	I hope some day you'll join us
It's easy if you try	And the world will be as one
No hell below us	
Above us only sky	Imagine no possessions
Imagine all the people living for today	I wonder if you can
	No need for greed or hunger
Imagine there's no countries	A brotherhood of man
It isn't hard to do	Imagine all the people sharing all the world, you
Nothing to kill or die for	
And no religion too	You may say I'm a dreamer
Imagine all the people living in peace, you	But I'm not the only one
	I hope some day you'll join us
You may say I'm a dreamer	And the world will be as one
But I'm not the only one	

One Love (Bob Marley)

One love, one heart	And I will feel all right
Let's get together and feel all right	Let's get together and feel all right
Hear the children crying (one love)	
Hear the children crying (one heart)	One more thing
Sayin', "Give thanks and praise to the Lord	Let's get together to fight this Holy Armageddon (one
And I will feel all right"	love)
Sayin', "Let's get together and feel all right"	So when the Man comes there will be no, no doom (one
Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa	song)
	Have pity on those whose chances grows thinner
Let them all pass all their dirty remarks (one love)	There ain't no hiding place from the Father of Creation
There is one question I'd really love to ask (one heart)	
Is there a place for the hopeless sinners	Sayin', one love (what about the one heart?)
Who has hurt all mankind just to save his own?	One heart (what about-)
Believe me	Let's get together and feel all right
	I'm pleading to mankind (one love)
One love (what about the one heart?)	Oh, Lord (one heart) whoa
One heart (what about-)	Give thanks and praise to the Lord
Let's get together and feel all right	And I will feel all right
	Let's get together and feel all right
As it was in the beginning (one love)	Give thanks and praise to the Lord
So shall it be in the end (one heart)	And I will feel all right.
Alright, give thanks and praise to the Lord	

Get Together (Youngbloods)

Love is but a song to sing
 Fear's the way we die
 You can make the mountains ring
 Or make the angels cry
 Though the bird is on the wing
 And you may not know why

Come on people now
 Smile on your brother
 Everybody get together
 Try to love one another
 Right now

Some may come and some may go
 We shall surely pass
 When the one that left us here
 Returns for us at last
 We are but a moment's sunlight
 Fading in the grass

Come on people now
 Smile on your brother
 Everybody get together
 Try to love one another
 Right now

Come on people now
 Smile on your brother
 Everybody get together
 Try to love one another
 Right now

Come on people now
 Smile on your brother
 Everybody get together
 Try to love one another
 Right now

If you hear the song I sing
 You will understand (listen!)
 You hold the key to love and fear
 All in your trembling hand
 Just one key unlocks them both
 It's there at your command

Come on people now
 Smile on your brother
 Everybody get together
 Try to love one another
 Right now

Come on people now
 Smile on your brother
 Everybody get together
 Try to love one another
 Right now

I said, come on people now
 Smile on your brother
 Everybody get together
 Try to love one another
 Right now
 Right now
 Right now

Stand Together

Music: Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah. Alternate lyrics © 2016, 2020, Mark Segelman

It's been a very stressful time
 It's hard to find any reason or rhyme
 Civility is hanging by a tether
 But if we're going to get things done
 We need the help of everyone
 Because we're stronger when we stand together
 | Stand together | X 4

We may diverge politically
 But we can all at least agree
 That bigotry and hate don't make things better
 The strength of this democracy
 Is our immense diversity
 That's why we're stronger when we stand together
 | Stand together | X 4

Here in the United States
 There is no room for racist hate
 Our rights must be protected, to the letter.
 When racist hate propels attacks
 We *all* must rally to fight back
 We won't be strong unless we stand together.
 | Stand together | X 4

We may have come from different lands
 But we are all Americans
 It hurts us all when people tar and feather
 We have a mission to fulfill:
 "One nation indivisible"
 We're always stronger when we stand together
 | Stand together | X 8

We Are One (Pat Humphries)

"Urinin hana" means "We are one" in Korean

Smiling face, outstretched hand
 Through disputes small and grand
 We will lay down our guns
 We are one

In the rage, through the war
 We have shared pain before
 In our grief when it's done
 Urinin hana, Urinin hana

Chorus: Where the earth touches sky
 We are born, we all die
 Where the clear waters run
 Urinin hana, Urinin hana

When the light touches land
 Over sea, over sand
 When each day has begun
 We are one

As the rock wears away
 And the tides roll and sway
 By the moon, by the sun
 Urinin hana , Urinin hana

Chorus

In the soft of the night
 We are learning not to fight
 In our hearts, in the drum
 We are one

In the birth of a child
 Through the fierce and the mild
 In our daughters and sons
 Urinin hana, Urinin hana