

**First Unitarian Church of Omaha**  
August 13, 2023  
"2024 Is it the year of the Ballot or the Bullet  
for Nebraska?"  
by Schmeeka Simpson



LGBTQIA Welcoming  
Congregation

**Welcome & Land Acknowledgment** – Dave Richardson

**Prelude** *People Get Ready* by Curtis Mayfield, Judi Unger, piano

**Chalice Lighting** – Carol Ramsey

*Spark of the spirit cupped in earth's embrace,  
Light of love alive in all creation,  
as we kindle this flame, we rekindle our connection  
to the sacred web of life.*

**Call to Worship** – “We Are Glad You Are Here” By Amanda Schuber

**Opening Hymn** - #149 - *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*

**Time for All Ages** - *Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X* by Ilyasah Shabazz, presented by Christina Strong

**Singing the Children to Classes** - #413 – *Go Now in Peace*

**Community Offering** – for the Whitney Young Academy

**Offertory** - *Strange Fruit*, by Lewis Allan, sung by Jordan Willis

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go to <https://www.firstuomaha.org/donations>,  
then scroll down to the selection for this month's  
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*To share a Joy or Concern, write it in the binder  
at the back of the sanctuary, or in the chat.*



**Care & Centering**

**Joys & Concerns**

**Centering Song** - Coming Home  
(inside back cover of teal hymnal)

*I return to myself here where I belong.  
I am coming home. Like a bird to its nest,  
like a river to the ocean, I am coming home.*

**Reading** - The words of Malcolm X

**Introduction of Speaker**

**Sermon** – “2024 Is it the year of the Ballot or the Bullet for Nebraska?”  
--Schmeeka Simpson

**Closing Song** - #170 – *We Are a Gentle, Angry People*

**Closing Words & Extinguishing of Chalice**

**Postlude:** *A Change is Gonna Come*, by Sam Cooke, sung by Jordan Willis

**Coffee & Conversation - Common Room (basement)**

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**For families:** *Childcare is offered during our Sunday services for infants through preschoolers (nursery in basement). Elementary and middle/high Sunday School classes begin after the Time for All Ages portion of our service. Children of all ages are always welcome to attend the full service with their families in our sanctuary. The service is also streamed in the Common Room downstairs (a convenient place to settle a fussy babe).*



**Hearing Assist Devices** are available in the foyer – along the east wall, or ask an usher / greeter to give you one.

**Please make your body comfortable.** *Feel free to knit or handle fidget toys during the service. Throughout the service, you may sit or stand as works best for your body, too (no compulsory standing for hymns). Restrooms are behind the side door of the sanctuary as you go out, and just down the stairs from the foyer.*



**Coming up...** to learn about [upcoming events](#), classes, and other happenings in the church and beyond, scan the QR code at left. Fill out a yellow [Communication Card](#) (or for those online, [Visitor Form](#)) if you would like to be added to the church’s email list. You can also [follow us on Facebook](#) (go to Follow settings and choose Favorites) and opt in to text messages from the church via Remind (<https://www.firstuomaha.org/remind>). Prefer hard copy? Printouts of the latest Church News e-blast are available in the foyer.

