

First Unitarian Church of Omaha  
April 23, 2023  
"The Thread" by Rev. Shari Woodbury



LGBTQIA Welcoming Congregation

**Welcome & Land Acknowledgment** - Rev. Woodbury

**Prelude** - "Spanish Dance" by James Gallway (Connie DiFazio)

**Chalice Lighting** - Carol McCabe

*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** - by Shari Woodbury with Mary Kay Peters

**Opening Hymn** - #188 - Come, Come, Whoever You Are (with counterpoint)

**Time for All Ages** - "Theodore Parker, the Turtle and the Voice" as retold by  
Janeen K. Grohsmeyer from Parker's *Recollections of Boyhood*  
presented by Christina Strong, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

**Singing the Children to Classes** - #1058 - Be Ours A Religion

**Welcoming Congregation Moment** - Carol Ramsey

**Community Offering** - for YES Meals

Offertory - "All Will Be Well" by Meg Barnhouse (The Offbeats)

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*If you would like to share a Joy or Concern, you  
may turn in yellow card, or write in chat, now.*

**Care & Centering**

**Joys & Concerns**

**Centering Song** - #391 - Voice Still and Small

**Contemplation** - an Earth Day Meditation

**Sermon** - "The Thread" by Rev. Shari Woodbury

**Interlude:** Sacred Rainbow Dance - 1st UU dancers  
with "Székely Áldas" (The Offbeats)

**Sermon** - "The Thread," part 2

**Closing Song** - #108 - My Life Flows On in Endless Song

**Closing Words & Extinguishing of Chalice**

**Postlude:** "Big Yellow Taxi" by Joni Mitchell  
(The Offbeats)

**Coffee & Conversation - Common Room**

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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.

