

River of Grass UU Congregation

June 11, 2023 – 10:30 AM

Hurricane Season: The Gathering Storm and Trans Refugees

"Home is not where you were born; home is where all your attempts to escape cease."

-Naguib Mahfouz

For trans and non-binary Floridians, June 1st marks the first day of both Pride Month and Hurricane Season, a time of joy and of danger. This year, the biggest threat to our trans community is not off the coast but in Tallahassee. Florida's legislature has passed a slew of anti-trans legislation, prompting the nation's largest LGBTQ+ organization to issue a 'travel advisory' for our state. In the current (political) climate, how safe is it for our trans and non-binary siblings to shelter in place?

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Heritage Hall or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... We'll be watching for you!

In person at:

- Our Sunday morning rental space is at the Old Davie Schoolhouse!
- 6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314 ([Click for Directions](#))
- Service will begin at **10:30 AM**
- Childcare will be provided.

Use the Zoom link below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our [facebook page](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9Jrtb9>

Jenn & Scott Migliori

Hurricane Season: The Gathering Storm and Trans Refugees

River of Grass – June 11, 2023 – Order of Service

Welcome and Greeting – Tanya Gustafson

Theme Hymn #38 – “Morning Has Broken” Words: Eleanor Farjeon; Music: Gaelic melody

Call to Worship – “Wake Up!” by: Christian Schmidt; Read by: Jenn & Scott Migliori

Let us wake up.

Not just from the Sunday morning exhaustion, from the wish for a few more drowsy minutes in bed.

Let us wake up to this world we live in: to its beauty and wonder, and also to its tragedy and pain.

We must wake up to this reality: that not all in our world have what we do, however much or little that is.

We must wake up to the idea that our wholeness, our lives, are only as complete as the lives of those around us, of those we are inextricably tied to in a great web of mutuality, of which all of us are part.

We must #staywoke, in the words of our friends and colleagues involved in Black Lives Matter, working every day for racial justice in our country.

Let us wake up, let us stay awake, let us #staywoke.

And now, in this time and place, let us worship together.

Chalice Lighting – “A Chalice Lighting for When Things Aren't Okay” Written by: Rev. Molly Brewer; Read

by: Tanya Gustafson

My beloved people,

I cannot pretend,

And so I will not tell you,

That everything is okay right now.

That there is no reason to be angry,

That you must be optimistic

Or at peace.

I cannot pretend these things,

And so I won't tell them to you.

But now our chalice is lit,

And so all I ask in this moment is that we remember the words of Rebecca Parker:

There is a Love.

There is a Love holding us.

There is a Love holding all.

By the light of our chalice,

Let us rest in this Love.

Covenant –

Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its law.

This is our great covenant:

to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

El Amor es el espíritu de esta congregación, y el servicio su ley principal.

Esta es nuestra gran promesa:

vivir juntos en paz, buscar la verdad a través del amor, y ayudarnos mutuamente.

Music – “We Are a Gentle Angry People” Words & Music: Holly Near; Vocals: Audrey Stang; Guitar: Aaron Stang

Candles of Community

Response

Offering – <http://riverofgrassuu.org/donations.html>

Wisdom Story – “Julián Is a Mermaid” Written by: Jessica Love

Singing Youth to Class – “We Love You and Bless You” Words & Music: Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Responsive Reading – “We Bear Witness” Written by: Amy Brooks

We people, gathered here today on the quest for truth and meaning, bear witness.

we bear witness.

To the record of human lives extinguished, simply because these people dared to live authentically,

we bear witness.

To the lives and reported deaths of (number) transgender people, globally, so far this year,

we bear witness.

To the lives and reported deaths of (number) transgender people, in these United States, so far this year,

we bear witness.

To the unreported ones, uncounted ones, the unnamed many, whose lives and deaths will only ever be known by the Universe,

we bear witness.

(pause)

In these times of heightened anxiety, we who are gathered here today reject the teachings of division and ignorance; and commit to siding with love against hatred.

we bear witness.

Against close-minded ideologies that excuse evil acts in the name of religion,

we bear witness.

Against any administration that seeks to fuel their rise to power by threatening the lives of transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary people,

we bear witness.

Against systemic power structures that treat transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary people – particularly those who are people of color – as being anything less than human,

we bear witness.

(pause)

On this day, we who are queer folk and allies, gathered together, uphold the First Principle that speaks to the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

we bear witness.

For those transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary people who are gathered among us today,

we bear witness.

For those who are allied to the cause of protecting our transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary siblings,

we bear witness.

For those who exist, boldly, unapologetically, in public space as fully authentic transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary people,

we bear witness.

(invitation to speak names of those we wish to hold in the light)

These remembered deaths have not gone unnoticed by us.

we bear witness.

Sacred, transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary lives do not go unnoticed by us.

we bear witness.

Message – “The Gathering Storm and Trans Refugees” Jenn & Scott Migliori

Closing Music – “Imagine” Words & Music: John Lenon; Arranged and Performed by: Aaron Stang

Announcements

Extinguish Chalice – “Flame in our Hearts” Written by: Vanessa Titang

Shine On

Invite to Hospitality