**At the entry to SPiN - a passage from a UU!**

Come into this place of peace

And let its silence heal your spirit,

Come into this place of memory

And let its history warm your soul;

Come into this place of prophesy

And power

And let its vision change your heart.

*Reverend William F. Schulz (born 1949) is a former President of the Unitarian Universalist Association and Executive Director of Amnesty International, USA, and currently President Emeritus of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; Affiliate Professor at Meadville Lombard Theological School; and Senior Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights at Harvard’s Kennedy School for Government.*

**Grandfather Great Spirit Lakota Prayer**

All over the world the faces of the living ones are alike.

With tenderness they have come up out of the ground.

Look upon your children that we may face the winds

and walk the good road to the Day of Quiet.

Grandfather great Spirit

Fill us with the light.

Give us the strength to understand and the eyes to see.

Teach us to walk the soft Earth as relatives to all that live.

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We need not think alike to love alike.

*Reverend Ferenc David (c. 1520-1579), or Francis David, was a Unitarian preacher and theologian from Transylvania, the founder of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, and a leading figure during the Protestant Reformation.   Rev. David is perhaps best known for his advocacy for freedom of belief and for the idea that our understanding of religious and spiritual principles may change over the course of time--that is, that we should be a people of open minds and open hearts.*

We are seekers who wish to discover and face what is true about our own lives and about the world in which we live.  We like to hide from truth when it tells us what we prefer not to hear, but we must continue as pilgrims seeking to know what is real, in its meanness and its glory and to live as whole persons in the midst of our joys and our sorrow.

*Robert Senghas (1928-2022) served as minister in Unitarian churches in Davis, Calif., and Wellesley Hills, Mass. He was the minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Society in Burlington, Vt. — the church at the head of Church Street — from 1979 to 1989, when he retired. From 1974 to 1979, Bob was the executive vice president of his denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), representing the New Hampshire-Vermont District, and served on the UUA Board Finance Committee.*

You must answer this question:
What will you do with your gifts?

Choose to bless the world.

The choice to bless the world is more than an act of will,
a moving forward into the world
with the intention to do good.

It is an act of recognition,
a confession of surprise,
a grateful acknowledgment
that in the midst of a broken world
unspeakable beauty, grace and mystery abide.

There is an embrace of kindness
that encompasses all life, even yours.

*Rebecca Ann Parker (born 1953) is an American theologian, author, and former President of Starr King School for the Ministry, the first woman to serve as the permanent head of an accredited U.S. theological school.* *She was ordained a United Methodist minister in 1992 and held dual fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association. She has worked in United Methodist and Unitarian Universalist congregations, including All Souls Unitarian in Washington DC and Wallingford United Methodist Church in Seattle, which was a pioneer in the Reconciling Congregation movement, affirming the sacred worth of all LGBTQ people. She served as President of Starr King School for the Ministry from 1990 to 2014 and is now a Professor of Theology Emerita. She has worked as the Theologian In-Residence and Minister for Adult Spiritual Development at All Souls Church in Washington, DC.*

It doesn’t have to be

the blue iris, it could be

weeds in a vacant lot, or a few

small stones; just

pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don’t try

to make them elaborate, this isn’t a

 contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which

another voice may speak.

*Mary Oliver (1935-2019) is often considered to be the unofficial poet laureate of Unitarian Universalists.*

 Winona LaDuke

Mother Earth needs us to keep our covenant…we will commit to our descendants to work hard to protect this land and water for them.  Whether you have feet, wings, fins, or roots, we are all in it together.

Robin Wall Kimmerer

To become naturalized is to live as if your children’s future matters, to take care of the land as if our lives and the lives of all our relatives depend on it.  Because they do.

Sharon Salzberg

Only love is big enough to hold all the pain of this world.

 Ralph Waldo Emerson

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson began his career as a Unitarian minister but went on, as an independent man of letters, to become the preeminent lecturer, essayist, and philosopher of 19th-century America. Emerson was a key figure in the "New England Renaissance." He and other Transcendentalists did much to open Unitarians and the liberally religious to science, Eastern religions and a naturalistic mysticism.*

  Henry David Thoreau

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined.

*Henry David Thoreau began writing nature poetry in the 1840s, with poet Ralph Waldo Emerson as a mentor and friend. In 1845 he began his famous two-year stay on Walden Pond, which he wrote about in his master work, Walden. He also became known for his beliefs in Transcendentalism and civil disobedience and was a dedicated abolitionist. On January 6, 1841, Thoreau submitted a short note full of attitude quitting the local Unitarian church. Thoreau, who was baptized and raised a Unitarian, was, to put it mildly, one of the movement's wayward youth. He never returned to the meetinghouse, but now, improbably, years after his birth, Unitarian Universalists embrace him.*

**currently posted on UU SPiN path but updated to include the 8th principle**

**Unitarian Universalist Association**

Principles and Purposes

We, the member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and dignity of every person;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are all a part;

Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.