

# Worship Transcript Grad and Communion June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Worship leaders: Simba Pianist: Sabrina

## PRELUDE

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *projected*

## WELCOME

Simba

Welcome to this space, sacred and holy. Welcome to this moment, this time and this worship service. Everyone is welcome. From all walks of life, identity, age, background and any other description. You are welcome. Let us ground ourselves in God's presence as we hear the words of gathering.

## CREATE SACRED SPACE *Pat will light the candles.*

With hope and anticipation, we gather in this sacred space. Welcoming the warm weather that brings the summer, and so does the nature. The beauty released in flowers and the rainbow that clouds share. Even the rainbow flags frequent the streets in the June month.

As a people of faith, we come with openness, to seek to be empowered, so we could face our world with faith and confidence. We seek renewal and wholeness. We open ourselves to the will and inspiration of the Spirit, that we can be freed from fear, anxiety, guilt, grief, from aggression, love for power and dominance, and be freed from anything that brought us pain and hurt.

We open our hearts to the filling of God's love; peace, and goodness. May we join our voices in prayer, song and praise, as we seek connection with our Creator. Amen.

We light the Christ candle to symbolize the presence of Christ in all we do, and in the spirit of justice, light these candles to show our support for those that still suffer social injustice.

## SONG: VU381 Spirit of Life *(remain seated)*

Words, Music: Carolyn McDade copyright © 1981 Carolyn McDade Harmony copyright © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association

Spirit of life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart  
all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand,  
giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close;  
wings set me free;  
Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

## LIFE & WORK

## SONG: VU395 Part of the Family *vs 1-4*

Words and Music copyright © 1984 James K. Manley Arrangement copyright © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People.

*Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.*

You know the reason why you came  
yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family.

*Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.*

God is with us in this place,  
like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace  
for we are a part of the family.

*Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.*

There's life to be shared in the bread and the  
wine;  
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.

This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,  
but we are a part of the family.

*Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.*

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's  
small.

So come in and worship and answer the call,  
for we are a part of the family.

*Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.*

#### **PRAYER:**

God of newness, God of renewal, God of beauty, God of warmth. We gather in your presence, to seek renewal, restoration and encouragement. We gather to celebrate a lot of good things that happen in our lives. We acknowledge your goodness in our lives and the lives of our colleagues. We witness your goodness in nature and seasons, growth and transitions. We offer this moment as an offering, to glorify your name and praise you. Even as we gather, may your Spirit interact with us in ways that may quicken our faith, warm our hearts and strengthen us for the journey. Through and in Christ we pray; Amen.

#### **GRAD TIME: "Celebration of our Graduates"**

**Roxanne**

#### **SONG: VU760 Psalm 33 responsive with VU 958 Halle, Halle as response**

Shout to God for joy, you righteous! Praise is fitting from loyal hearts.

**Give thanks to God with the harp, sing praise to God with the ten-stringed lute.**

Sing a new song to God, play skillfully and with shouts of joy.

**For the word of God is true; God's every deed is faithful.**

#### *Refrain*

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

You love what is right and just; the earth is full of your constant love.

**By your word the heavens were made, the countless stars by the breath of your mouth.**

You gathered the waters of the sea as in a goatskin;  
**you stored the deep in cisterns.**

Let all the earth fear you, O God,  
**let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe.**

For you spoke and it came to be;  
you commanded and it stood firm.

**You foil the plans of the nations and frustrate the schemes of the peoples.**

Your counsel, O God, shall stand forever,  
the purposes of your heart through all generations.

**Happy the nation who has you as God. Happy the people you choose as your own.**

Our heart rejoices in you, O God,  
because our hope is in your holy name.

**Let your steadfast love be upon us as we put our trust in you.**

*Refrain*

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

#### **SPIRITUAL READINGS:**

**Scripture: Matt. 9: 9-13, 18-26**

**Peyton**

As Jesus walked on, he saw Matthew, a tax collector, at his post. Jesus approached and said "Follow me, "and Matthew got up and followed.

Now it happened that, while Jesus was at the table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and notorious "sinners" came to join Jesus and the disciples at dinner. The Pharisees saw this and complained to the disciples, saying "What reason can the Teacher have for eating with tax collectors and sinners?"

Overhearing the remark Jesus said" People who are in good health don't need a doctor; sick people do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, I desire compassion, not sacrifices, I have come to call not the righteous but sinners"

As Jesus was speaking, a synagogue official came up, knelt down and said, "My daughter has just died. But if you come and lay hands on her, she will live. Jesus got up and went with the official, and so did the disciples.

As they were going along, a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years came up and behind him and touched the hem of his cloak, she was saying to herself "If only I can touch his cloak, I will be healed. Jesus turned around and saw her "Courage, daughter" he said, 'your faith has healed you'. That very moment the woman was healed.

When Jesus arrived at the house of the synagogue official, a noisy crowd had gathered, and the flute players who served as mourners had already arrived. When he saw them, he said "Get out! The child is not dead- only asleep. They all laughed at him. After the crowd had been put out, he entered and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. And the news spread through the countryside.

## **Song: TLUS 64 There's a Wild Hope in the Wind vs 1-3**

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*(Song leaders will sing through once and then congregation will join singing all verses)*

There's a wild hope in the wind:  
her whisper is heard on the breeze.  
The gale is her shout that is calling us out.  
There's a wild hope in the wind.  
O God in the wind, come gather us in,  
be our courage and promise.  
The future is dim, but we want to  
live into a wild, wild hope.

There's a wild hope in the skies:  
her gown is the blue of forever.  
The purple of night is her heart's pure delight.  
There's a wild hope in the skies.  
O God in the skies, come open our eyes,

be our courage and promise.  
The future is dim, but we want to  
live into a wild, wild hope.

There's a wild hope in the earth:  
her body provides us with nurture.  
The dark underground is where life can  
abound.

There's a wild hope in the earth.  
O God in the earth, come aid our rebirth,  
be our courage and promise.  
The future is dim, but we want to  
live into a wild, wild hope.

## **REFLECTION – Celebrating Transition and Change**

### **The Space Around Jesus is Accessible to Everyone.**

This passage points to the time when Jesus was calling disciples and carrying out ministry. In calling disciples from the outsiders or the morally marginalized, Jesus demonstrated that everyone is welcome to the Kingdom of God. This emphasized the power of transformation, making everyone equal as “children of God.” That is why he called Matthew, the Tax Collector. Tax-Collectors were resented by many for their profession, suspected of over-charging the citizens and making unscrupulous profit, as workers & representatives of the Roman Empire. It was a morally disliked profession because they worked in collaboration with the Imperial forces. When Jesus sat with Tax-Collectors, the boundary lines were redrawn. This was a demonstration that Jesus chose attending to the wellbeing of the people over their moral standards. In other words, everyone could access the space around Jesus.

This became a constant problem during Jesus' ministry. Jesus allowed the disliked groups to access spaces around him, willingly recognizing some of them. They touched him, ate with him, & talked to him. This was a significant shift from the status quo. No one had done what this “New Teacher was doing.” Jesus was concerned about their welfare, not their moral status. Jesus did not seek to address their behavior, but their needs. What was central was what Jesus could do for them, not what they should not do in their life. Surprisingly, all of the people recorded in such situations had their lives transformed.

### **Celebrating Transition and Change.**

Jesus sought to give life over maintaining the status quo. Instead of being loyal to the purity code of their religion and culture, Jesus prioritized mercy, justice, compassion, and other virtues. Jesus sought to transform the situations around the individuals, which he did, and even made significant strides in public opinion, too. Transformation is not always an easy experience. Jesus was presiding over transformative experiences throughout the ministry. This kind of takes me to today's event. Transition or transformation is always an experience that brings uncertainty, sometimes fear or excitement. Today we are celebrating graduation for many Grads. This comes with a sure fact of

transition from a high school student to an Undergrad or to College student, or even an employee or some form of gainful production. This may mean driving away, moving away, relocation, independence, and many other developments. Especially, when it is positive transition. Jesus sought to change lives. Let us embrace change in our life, with or without immediate benefit. Pleasant or difficult, change is part of life. All the best to those whose lives are changing. Whether we are relocating to a new home, new job, new status, becoming a parent, retirement, or whatever that is.

### **There Was Access to the Space Around Jesus**

In Jesus' ministry, outsiders had access to the grace of God. No prior conditions were required. The call of Matthew, the tax collector, daughter of Jairus, the bleeding woman, and others. They all had access to the space around Jesus, regardless of their conditions, identity or social standing. All these violated the literal moral codes. These codes guided how the people of Israel live, as they were premised on the purity laws in Leviticus. Uncleanliness was a big issue for this community, and was a very controversial one.

What impact has your access to Jesus' space helped you make? What ripples are you sending out? How has your access to the space around Jesus has empowered you for the journey of life? how is that going to prepare you for transition, change and different type of life? That applies to the Grad, their family and all of us? Everybody who had access to Jesus had their life somehow changed. What about us? Life will demand more of your time, effort, responsibility, and expectation. Are you ready for it? Sometimes we get our issues addressed in public ways or private ways.

The last interesting part for me was the woman with bleeding issues. Desperate & struggling but remained hopeful. This kind of suggests that, in some cases, our inner dispositions may contribute to how our bodies respond to medical issues. Not claiming issues of miracles here but that determination helps in our mind-sets, hope and the feeling one has. Those who have faced medical crises may relate. If we receive bad news and crumble immediately, it's going to be hard to find recovery. Sometimes difficult situations need our tenacity. We don't need to give up when conditions threaten us. We need to have that determination, fueled by faith and hope, not always known to the public.

### **Why Did You Come/Tune-in?**

This highlights why we have the sentence; "you know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain." It makes worship more than just a collective gathering. It makes this worship space, a place of vulnerability, intrinsic and authentic engagement. It goes beyond the numbers, but hearts that seek wholeness, restoration and transformation. When we come together, some are coming for specific reasons, seeking life-transforming encounters. They are not looking for who else has attended church, they are here to connect, to seek community, encouragement, comfort and to serve. They are coming to a place for a possible divine touch or experience. Sacred spaces are more than places of gathering; They are sacramental. They are places where God is met with anticipation, expectation and hope. Everyone may have a different reason to come. God might be experienced in our connection with one another or in the sacred song or words of prayer. After the encounters with Jesus, **the joy and gratitude created ripples of Jesus' popularity**. The echoes of Jesus ministry reached far and wide, leading to ever increasing multitudes. Why are you here? Access is not conditional. Just connect with your creator in ways that you want.

## Celebration of Communion

### **SONG: TLUS 23 For Everyone Born vs 1&4**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1998 Hope Publishing Company Music: Brian Mann © 2006 admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBBMusik

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star over-head,  
*and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!*

For all who have breath, a place at the table,  
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,  
for all who have breath, the chalice of grace,  
*and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!*

God is with you

**And also with you**

Lift up Your hearts

**We lift them up to God & to one another.**

Blessed are You our Creator, source of life and community. With thanksgiving, we proclaim your name.

**We celebrate the coming of Jesus who fed the hungry and ate with the marginalized.**

On the night Jesus was arrested, they sat to eat with friends and family, after blessing the bread, Jesus gave it to the disciples saying, 'take, eat this bread representing my broken body. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it and said, 'drink this cup as often as you can. Do this to remember me.'

After the meal, Jesus was arrested, beaten, condemned and was crucified. Christ's story continues;  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Let us pray:

**Loving God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts; that they may be the bread of life to the church. Remember your church scattered across the face of the earth, gather it in unity, nurture it in love, preserve it in truth. In communion with all creation, we glorify you. Now and forever. Amen.**

## New Creed

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

### **Breaking the Bread & Blessing the Cup**

The gifts of God to the people of God. Come, let us share in these gifts. The table is set.

*TLUS 23 For Everyone Born, VU467 One Bread, One Body, MV202 Bread for the Journey will be projected and sung during communion.*

### **OFFERING INVITATION:**

In our celebration, may the express her faith, response and sense of call to call to ministry through the presentation of offerings.

### **SONG: MV156 Dance with the Spirit x2**

*Words and music copyright © 1995 Jim and Jean Strathdee (Desert Flower Music)*

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life abornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, in your presence, we offer these gifts to be sanctified for your purpose. May everything offered be accepted and be blessed for your ministry. Accept our treasure, time, skill, passion and everything offered to your glory. Through Jesus, our Immanuel. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

We come from different places, where struggle and pain have robbed us of our peace. we approach your presence seeking relief, that we may be healed from fear, pain, failures, loss, grief, loneliness, and stigmatizations of all kinds. Empower us to face transition with faith, confidence & humility. Grant us courage, that our hearts may find renewed hope, and learn to trust in your goodness.

We pray for people on the margins, socially condemned and morally judged. Those who suffer stigmatization for their identity, and those leading the voices of the silenced. We pray for a society that recognizes her own, love herself and respect her members.

In this conflicted world, we pray for reconciliation; including in our own families. In this violent world, we pray for peace globally and locally. Peace in our minds, hearts and community. May our relations be healed, our brokenness and our conflicts be resolved. May we be empowered to play a part the process of building your kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.

May you send us out to serve our communities with love, compassion and passion. May our work bring hope to the despairing, peace to the troubled and promising to those who doubt their future. Sing the Jesus Prayer Song

## The Lord's Prayer VU 959 with Amen's VU 974

Music VUV 959: David Haus © 1986 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Music VU 974: Jim Strathdee© 1985 Desert Flower Music. Words: Public Domain

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those

who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil  
for the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever.  
Amen! Amen!  
Hallelujah, amen!

## SONG: VU245 Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet *Satiety on trombone*

*Words, Music: Natalie Sleeth © Copyright 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.*

Praise the Lord  
with the sound of trumpet,  
praise the Lord  
with the harp and lute,  
praise the Lord  
with the gentle sounding flute.

Praise the Lord  
with the crashing cymbal,  
praise the Lord  
with the pipe and string,  
praise the Lord  
with the joyful songs you sing.

Praise the Lord  
in the field and forest,  
praise the Lord in the city square,  
praise the Lord  
anytime and anywhere.

Praise the Lord  
on the weekday morning,  
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,  
praise the Lord  
by the light of sun or moon.

Praise the Lord  
in the wind and sunshine,  
praise the Lord in the dark of night,  
praise the Lord in the rain or snow  
or in the morning light.

Praise the Lord  
in the time of sorrow,  
praise the Lord in the time of joy,  
praise the Lord ev'ry moment,  
nothing let your praise destroy.

Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,  
praise the Lord on the highest hill,  
praise the Lord  
never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,  
praise the Lord in your work or play,  
praise the Lord  
ev'ry where in ev'ry way!

## BLESSING

May the peace of God go with you. Go in the love of God and the love of your colleagues. May God's light shine upon you so others can see God on your face. May you always remain in fellowship with the divine and the people you meet. Stay renewed, hopeful and joyful. In the name of the Holy One; Holy Three. Amen

## SONG: VU958 Halle, Halle

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Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!