

**Liberating Love**  
**Meeting this Moment May 2026**  
**Rev. Samaya Oakley**

**Publicity Information**

**Title:** Liberating Love

**Preacher:** Rev. Samaya Oakley

**Blurb:** How do we bring love into the world? How can love liberate us? Samaya speaks to us by video in this year's Meaning Making series, "Meeting this moment with love and justice."

**Bio:** The Rev. Samaya Oakley (she/her) currently serves as the Minister for the Calgary Unitarians. She discovered Unitarian Universalism through the North Shore Unitarian Church, and quickly became active continentally through the Youth Office of the UUA. She holds at the heart of her ministry the importance of relationships and compassion. Rev. Samaya is a strong believer in social justice and believes that our theology calls us to be active agents for love and justice in the world. She holds at the heart of her ministry the importance of relationships and compassion. She is a strong believer in social justice and believes that our theology calls us to be active agents for love and justice in the world.

Rev. Samaya served as Co-Chair of the Canadian Unitarian Council's (CUC) Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guides – five age-appropriate reflection guides for use in Canadian UU congregations. Most recently she helped to coordinate the CUC's Widening the Circle program that invites leaders and aspiring change-makers to engage with the work of finding new ways of being together that challenge our current ways of thinking.



## Order of Service

### Gathering Music

### Welcome

*Worship leaders are invited to use their regular welcome words, with the addition of the following points. Feel free to recast the words so they work for you:*

- *This service is part of the “Meaning Making” series.*
- *We are part of a group of 17 Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations who are sharing resources to create an 8-part series on Meeting this Moment with Love and Justice.*
- *The sermon is by the Rev. Samaya Oakley. You are welcome to draw on Rev. Samaya’s bio, above.*

### Land Acknowledgement

*Worship leaders are invited to follow their usual practice.*

### Opening Hymn #188 “Come, Come, Whoever you are”

[https://youtu.be/LE\\_8P-hgNGg?si=A\\_0WRTMPu0uoy1aW](https://youtu.be/LE_8P-hgNGg?si=A_0WRTMPu0uoy1aW)

(UUCC Music Director Anna Hamilton)

### Chalice Lighting SLT #471, Arranged by L. Griswold Williams

Love is the doctrine of this church,  
The quest of truth is its sacrament,  
And service is its prayer.

To dwell together in peace,  
To seek knowledge in freedom,  
To serve human need,  
To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine –

Thus do we covenant with each other and with God.

### Time for All Ages

*Choose from two options:*

- *Read The Heart and the Bottle by Oliver Jeffers, available at most libraries OR*
- *Interactive Story – see below.*

**Children's Recessional**

*Worship leaders are invited to follow their usual practice.*

**Offering**

*Worship leaders are invited to follow their usual practice.*

**Offertory**

*Worship leaders are invited to follow their usual practice.*

**Joys and Sorrows**

*Worship leaders are invited to follow their usual practice.*

**Meditation:** SLT #459 by William F. Schulz

*Use your standard meditation introduction, or use these words:*

I invite you into a time of shared silence following these words by William F. Schulz. A UU minister, Schulz served as the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association and then as Executive Director of Amnesty International USA.

These are his words from Singing the Living Tradition:

This is the mission of our faith:

To teach the fragile art of hospitality;

To revere both the critical mind and the generous heart;

To prove that diversity need not mean divisiveness;

And to witness to all that we must hold the whole world in our hands.

**Silence****Musical Interlude** STJ #1037 We Begin Again in Love

<https://youtu.be/9Yt4E9OPt-A?si=NRcXkxi138yk48sf>

(Orange Coast UU)

**Sermon** "Liberating Love" by Rev. Samaya Oakley

[See the video](#)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17vqyJtQVytj9MlrqhjMWhTVbHAQEkSFE?usp=sharing>

### **Closing Hymn No. 131 Love Will Guide Us**

<https://youtu.be/fomkThfBjo0?si=-f6pBfwOZvtbzMsx>

(Michael Tacy)

### **Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice: SLT #473 by James Vila Blake**

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

This is our great covenant:

To dwell together in peace,

To seek the truth in love,

And to help one another.

### **Postlude**

#### **Interactive Story: The Stone in the Backpack**

*Materials: No book required — just a backpack and stones.*

Begin with: “Imagine you carry a backpack everywhere. And every time someone hurts you, or you feel embarrassed, or angry, or scared — you put a stone in it.”

*Invite a child to come forward and hold the backpack as you begin placing stones inside.*

Okay... I’m going to put one rock in here for when someone says something unkind. And another for when we feel left out. And another for when we’re scared. And maybe one more for when we hear hard news about the world.

*Pause.*

How does it feel?

*(Take a few answers.)*

What if you had to carry this all by yourself every single day? What might happen?

*(Let responses come — “It would hurt.” “You’d get tired.”)*

*Then soften your voice:* But here’s something important. In real life, we are not meant to carry our rocks alone.

*Turn to the congregation:* “What if I asked some of you to come help hold the backpack for a minute?”

*Invite one or two others — child or adult — to gently place their hands under the backpack.*

How does it feel now?

*(Allow the child to respond.)*

That’s what community does. We help hold each other’s rocks. We don’t pretend they aren’t heavy. We don’t pretend they don’t matter. We just make sure no one has to carry them by themselves.

*Then slowly remove the stones, one by one.*

Letting go doesn’t mean what happened didn’t matter. It means we don’t carry it alone forever. And sometimes, when we’re ready, we can set a rock down — because someone helped us hold it.

*End of document*