

# Youth Sunday: Bridging Ceremony

The Bridging Ceremony, a youth-led service, celebrates the transition of our youth from their high school experience into young adulthood. Youth, Young Souls, parents/guardians, and the congregation all play a role in this UU tradition.

Join us for this hybrid, ASL-interpreted worship service! Stay afterward for coffee hour and cake in Pierce Hall or visit with the Connecting Souls for social time on the same Zoom link!

*All are invited forward to light candles of joys and concerns before the service.*

*If you are joining us virtually, please light a candle in your home or share in the Zoom chat.*



*We yearn for justice and compassion and for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.  
We toll our Revere Bell for a peace based on justice throughout the Middle East  
and for real discernment about our national way forward.*

## Processional

*Siyahamba*  
South African hymn

All Souls Choir  
Youth Choirs

## Call to Worship & Chalice Lighting

Rev. Bill Sinkford & Jonah Watson

## Hymn 346

*Come, Sing a Song with Me*

## Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Charlotte Milner

## Anthem

*Beautiful*  
Linda Perry

Junior Choir

Every day is so wonderful,  
Then suddenly, it's hard to breathe.  
Now and then I get insecure  
From all the pain, I'm so ashamed.  
I am beautiful no matter what they say  
Words can't bring me down.  
I am beautiful in every single way.  
Yes, words can't bring me down... Oh no.  
So don't you bring me down today.  
To all your friends you're delirious.  
So consumed in all your doom.

Trying hard to fill the emptiness.  
The pieces gone, left the puzzle undone.  
Ain't that the way it is?  
You are beautiful no matter what they say.  
Words can't bring you down.  
You are beautiful in every single way.  
Yes, words can't bring you down, oh, no.  
So don't you bring me down today.  
No matter what we do.  
No matter what we say.  
We're the song inside the tune  
Full of beautiful mistakes.

And everywhere we go,  
The sun will always shine.  
And tomorrow we might wake  
on the other side  
We are beautiful  
no matter what they say.  
Words won't bring us down.  
We are beautiful in every single way.  
Yes, words can't bring us down,  
oh, no.  
So don't you bring me down today.

## Child Dedication (Reading 714)

Rev. Sinkford, Lara Profitt, & Calder Metzler

Augustin Louie      Julia Hustwit & Marcus Louie  
Phoebe Kambour-Holt      Andrew Kambour & Julie Holt  
Magnolia Esme Fowler-Gomez      Jennifer Gomez & Reginald Gant Fowler, Jr  
Zaina Ashour      Katrina Weber & Nabil Ashour

## Announcements, Congregational Care, & Prayer

Rev. Louise Green

## Hymn 123

Fuente de amor, ven hacia mi  
 Y al corazón cántale tu compasión  
 Sopla al volar, sube en la mar  
 Hasta moldear la justicia de la vida  
 Arrágame, libérame  
 Fuente de amor, ven a mi, ven a mi

## Spirit of Life

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.

Leo Watson, clarinet

## Moment of Silence

## Introduction

Rev. Sinkford

## Reflections

## Growing Up at All Souls

Moxie Coleman-Miller  
 Calder Metzler  
 Charlotte Milner

## Offering

Charlotte Milner

*Each month, All Souls' Share-the-Plate Collection contributes 50% of all non-pledge gifts to important organizations (usually local, but occasionally located elsewhere). **In May, which is Mental Health Awareness Month, we are sharing donations with the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, known NAMI DC (namidc.org).** NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization providing advocacy, education, support, and public awareness. The DC Chapter is a group of concerned families and individuals who care deeply about supporting those whose lives are affected by mental illness through a hotline, family-to-family programs, and more.*

**Scan the QR code to make a gift for today's plate collection  
 or text "ascu" to 73256 to make a digital donation today!**



## Offertory

## Emblem of Unity

J.J. Richards

Leo Watson, clarinet

## Bridging Ceremony

Rev. Sinkford & Michele Andersen, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Moxie Coleman-Miller	Calder Metzler
Luther Hoy	Charlotte Milner
Wesley Hoy	Leo Watson

### PART 1: Honoring Bridgers

#### **Bridging Seniors:**

Today I cross this bridge  
 Full of hopes and dreams  
 I join in fellowship  
 To explore, connect, thrive, and rejoice

#### **Families:**

Today we applaud you  
 For all you have been  
 For all you are now  
 For all you will be.

#### **Congregation:**

Today we honor the youth among us  
 You who are stepping beyond and away and toward  
 We share in your journey  
 And encourage your discovery.

### PART 2: Invitation to Bridge

#### **Young Souls and Board Members:**

Today as you cross this bridge  
 We welcome you as you are  
 And offer you a safe place to grow.  
 We celebrate your hopes and dreams  
 And offer to support and nurture you.  
 Come explore, connect, thrive, and rejoice

### PART 3: Affirmation of Community

#### **Everyone:**

Together we share a special place  
 Together we learn  
 Together we love  
 Together we grow

## Hymn

### *Come and Go with Me to That Land*

Come and go with me to that land where I'm bound!  
Come and go with me to that land, come and go with me to that land  
Come and go with me to that land where I'm bound!

There'll be freedom in that land...  
There'll be justice in that land...  
There'll be singing in that land...

## Benediction

Rev. Sinkford

## Benediction in Music

*This Is Me*  
Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

All Souls Choir  
Graham Milner, soloist

I'm not a stranger to the dark  
Hide away, they say  
'Cause we don't want your broken parts  
I've learned to be ashamed of all my scars  
Run away, they say  
No one will love you as you are  
But I won't let them break me down to dust  
I know that there's a place for us  
For we are glorious  
When the sharpest words wanna cut me down  
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out

I am brave, I am bruised  
I am who I'm meant to be, this is me  
Look out 'cause here I come  
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum  
I'm not scared to be seen  
I make no apologies, this is me  
Another round of bullets hits my skin  
Well, fire away 'cause today, I won't let the shame sink in  
We are bursting through the barricades  
And reaching for the sun (we are warriors)  
Yeah, that's what we've become

**Welcome to All Souls!** First time here? We're happy to see you! Ushers (with teal stoles) can answer your questions, or visit the front desk. **Come to the Welcoming Corner during coffee hour and use a red mug or cup so we know you're new and can say hi!** The nursery welcomes children 4 and under (listening devices are available for parents), and religious education classes are open for children 5 and up! Assisted listening devices are available at the front desk, and closed captioning is available for our Zoom congregation. **This service will be streamed on Zoom, recorded, and posted on our website. Some pew seating will be visible in the video.**

## Board of Trustees Budget Process

We are looking at some tough budget decisions for the next church year, which begins on July 1, but you can help by making your annual giving pledge today ([all-souls.org/donate](http://all-souls.org/donate))! The board will base its budget recommendations on the pledges received, so please let us know your intentions.

### Budget Calendar

- Wed., May 15, 7 pm, Zoom - Board of Trustees meeting to vote on final recommended budget
- Sun., June 2, 1 pm, Sanctuary and Zoom - Annual Meeting where the congregation will vote on a final budget



For over 200 years, All Souls has stood tall as a progressive religious center from which movements for justice and liberation have helped shape DC, Unitarian Universalism, and the nation. It is a place of acceptance, inspiration and joy. All Souls is a beacon in the community, a place where Hope Rises, and it needs urgent repair.

Now is the time to make your pledges of financial support for the coming year and to the capital campaign to raise funds for long-delayed repairs to our church building. You can learn more at [all-souls.org/donate/hope-rises](http://all-souls.org/donate/hope-rises).

Volunteer stewards, fellow congregants, are reaching out to many families to talk about All Souls and to ask for your support. Pledge cards have been mailed out and are in the pew racks as well. You can also go to the website to make your pledges of support.

Please make your pledge now to keep Hope Rising at All Souls.

## Beckner Advancement Fund

The All Souls Beckner Advancement Fund Committee seeks church members to join us this August. The Beckner Fund is a social justice philanthropic initiative established by members Earl and Meta Beckner in 1973 to create a more collaborative, attractive, and forward-looking community that fosters human rights and dignity and enhances the influence of All Souls in the metropolitan area. The Fund Committee is guided by a vision of DC where all residents have the opportunities and resources they need to live with dignity and share in the prosperity and vibrancy of our nation's capital. This year, the Fund has approved more than \$29,000 in grants to internal All Souls' ministries and \$55,000 to nonprofits serving the communities surrounding the church and DC more broadly.

We welcome all applicants with a passion for philanthropy, equity, and justice, and seek a diverse mix of identities, backgrounds, and experiences. While not a requirement, we are especially interested in candidates with expertise in finance or in measuring qualitative/quantitative impacts of social change work. We also encourage applicants to share any paid or volunteer experience that could enhance our work, such as communications/graphic design, social media, training/facilitation, and community outreach.

The brief application form ([link at all-souls.org/social-justice/beckner](http://all-souls.org/social-justice/beckner)) should be submitted no later than 12:00 pm, May 13, 2024. All applicants will be notified of new member appointments following the June Board of Trustees meeting.

Questions? Connect with Beckner's program officer, Ruth Goins ([ascu.beckner@gmail.com](mailto:ascu.beckner@gmail.com)).



**May 8, 2024 | 7:30 pm | Hybrid**

Please join us in-person or online for our Vespers service this month! Our Vespers worship service is modeled after the traditional Taizé worship service, which uses silence, scripture, prayer, and repetitive singing of short chants and rounds to quiet the mind and promote deep meditation.

The Taizé Community promotes peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Followed by a time for community gathering. Every second Wednesday of the month. **See church website calendar for Zoom link.**

## Growing Your Connections

### Beginning monthly Drop-in Covenant Groups!

Join a small group in fellowship, reflection, and relationship-building. Choose Zoom OR in person at All Souls for separate groups. No registration needed and Zoom link will be on the ASC website calendar.

**Monday, May 13, 7-8:15 pm.** Theme: Growth.

**Sunday, June 9, 12:15-1:30.** Theme: Transformation

Facilitators: John Tambornino & Wendy Carter, with Rev. Louise Green

### What's really going on with crime in DC? Talk with Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau and others

**Sponsored by All Souls Racial Justice Action. Dining Room | Sunday, May 19 | 12:30 - 2:30 PM**

In 2020, following the murder of George Floyd by a police officer, we organized locally to reckon with police violence and won some modest policing reforms here in DC. Lately, there's been a lot of media attention focused on crime in the District that has fueled a backlash to those hard-won reforms. How can we cut through the fear and understand what's really going on with crime in DC? What changes do we need to create a safe city for all residents? Speakers will include Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, DC Attorney General Brian Schwab (invited), a violence interrupter, a person directly affected by the criminal legal system, moderated by the Public Safety Organizer for the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN). Light lunch provided, with the program starting at 12:30 PM. See the e-bulletin for RSVP link.



## Bob Freeman Legacy Mothers Day Plant Sale

**Sunday, May 12**

Everyone is invited to the 41st annual plant sale to buy all kinds of plants for your house, yard, and mother! Cash, check, and phone payments will be accepted.

We need plants and volunteers! If you have plants to share or free time on Saturday, May 11, or Sunday May 12, we'd be happy to accept your plants, pots, smiles, and helping hands at this festive event. Look for our information table in Pierce Hall after service in the next weeks. You can learn more, ask questions, or sign up to volunteer there. Flyers also in the Reeb Lobby and at Front Desk.