

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society  
*Good Things About the Religions We've Left*  
Led by Doleta Chapru  
September 10, 2000

*The word religion comes from a root meaning to bind back or reconnect.  
"Religion is that which reconnects us with the most profound goodness,  
truth and beauty we can imagine."* Rev. Michael Schuler

PRELUDE: *Jubilate Deo* Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)  
The Prairie Choir

HYMN: *We Are the Earth Upright and Proud* Text: Kenneth L. Patton, U.U., 1980  
Music: Martin Luther (1483-1546); Harmony: J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Aileen Nettleton, piano; Michael Briggs, "pipe organ"

WELCOME Erin Bosch, President

CHALICE LIGHTING & MEDITATION Doleta Chapru

SPECIAL MUSIC *Yisraeil V'Oraita/Israel and the Torah* Jewish Liturgical Song  
Toby Wacker, Judy Wacker, Carl Wacker, Paula Pachciarz

CHILDREN'S STORY *The Wee, Wise Bird* read by Mei Lien & Kathy Converse  
A story told by Jewish rabbis. From an adaptation by Sophia Lyons Fahs, U.U.

INTRODUCTION OF CHILDREN Erin Bosch

HYMN: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Music and Text: Martin Luther (1483-1546)  
English Translation: Frederick Henry Hedge, U.U. (1853)

***GOOD THINGS ABOUT THE RELIGIONS WE'VE LEFT***

Doleta Chapru, Orange Schroeder, Ken Skog  
The Congregation, Nikki Bromberg

HYMN: *When God Is Seen With Men To Dwell* from a 1909 Christian Science Hymnal  
Music: William Knapp; Text: Hosea Ballou, U.U.

JOYS & CONCERNS ...*That we share a common humanity, that we need one another...*  
from the Prairie U.U. Bond of Union

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & VISITORS - OFFERING - ANNOUNCEMENTS  
We encourage everyone to stay for snacks and conversation after the service.

FINAL WORDS: *It Matters What We Believe* Sophia Lyons Fahs, U.U.  
Erin Bosch and Congregation (*italics*)

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Osanna in Excelsis* from *Mass in G* Franz Schubert (1815)  
Prairie Choir; David Grindrod, piano; Michael Briggs "pipe organ"

\* Those who are able are invited to stand.

## IT MATTERS WHAT WE BELIEVE

Some beliefs are like walled gardens. They encourage exclusiveness, and the feeling of being especially privileged.

*Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies.*

Some beliefs are like shadows, clouding children's days with fears of unknown calamities.

*Other beliefs are like sunshine, blessing children with the warmth of happiness.*

Some beliefs are divisive, separating the saved from the unsaved, friends from enemies.

*Other beliefs are bonds in a world community, where sincere differences beautify the pattern.*

Some beliefs are like blinders, shutting off the power to choose one's own direction.

*Other beliefs are like gateways opening wide vistas for exploration.*

Some beliefs weaken a person's selfhood. They blight the growth of resourcefulness.

*Other beliefs nurture self-confidence and enrich the feeling of personal worth.*

Some beliefs are rigid, like the body of death, impotent in a changing world.

*Other beliefs are pliable, like the young sapling, ever growing with the upward thrust of life.*