I'm so happy to be your sabbatical minister. Thank you for your warm welcome and your notes about our worship services. I'm enjoying working with your wonderful staff and worship team.

This past Saturday, I attended the Rally for Abortion Justice in Washington, D.C. It was one of 650 rallies across the U.S. to advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice.

I realized that I attended my first rally for women's rights in 1976, 45 years earlier. I wished I had made a sign saying: "I can't believe I'm still protesting this s**t." It is hard to understand how we have reached a place where the Roe decision that I had celebrated as an 18 year old is so imperiled. The new Texas law prohibits abortion at 4 weeks gestation, a time before most people even know they are pregnant. The Supreme Court will hear a case from Mississippi this term that could overturn the Roe trimester framework.

The UUA has supported safe and legal abortion since the 1960's. As I shared with you in my sermon this past week, these issues affect us all because no one's sexual rights are assured unless everyone's rights are secured. And the right to choose when or whether to have a child or carry a pregnancy to term is central to our rights to autonomy and bodily integrity. I believe that abortion is always a moral decision and that people must have the moral agency to determine their own lives.

Thank you to all of you who marched in Santa Cruz this past weekend or who support these rights through activism and financial donations to Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and other pro-choice organizations. We can and must make a difference.

In faith,

Rev. Debra