

Harwood Place UU Circle

June 23rd, 2022
Orchard Room 10:30 am

Chalice Lighting:

We light this chalice to symbolize our living tradition

Let this flame symbolize our passion

To bring our faith into action

Let this flame symbolize our commitment

To bringing our prophetic voice to the people

May our passion and commitment

Serve to advance human rights and social justice around the world

So that all may live in the spirit of light and love.

Silence

Check-in:

Name one thing that is lifting your spirit and one thing that is pulling at your spirit.

Opening Reading:

We the people of the United Nations,

- Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,
- To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations large and small,
- To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
- And for these ends to practice tolerance and to live together in peace as good neighbors,

- To unite our strength to maintain international peace and security,
- To ensure that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest,
- To employ international machinery in the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all people,
- Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.

Charter of the United Nations

Questions to consider and discuss:

1. What resonates in your spirit as you read and hear about the resilient spirit of the Ukrainian people?
2. How is it that in 2022, given the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights, we are here today lifting up the resilience of a people living in the horror of war and genocide?
3. What about this makes you angry? Sad? Afraid? Hopeful? Inspired?
4. What feelings of helplessness and hopelessness do you feel? What offers you hope? Inspires you to action?
5. We see similar suffering in other parts of the world as well, including in our country's inner cities. Have we learned anything since this charter was written in 1948?

Closing words:

Although we extinguish this flame,
 The spirit of life and love lives on
 in our search for truth and justice.
 May our actions be an expression of our commitment
 to creating a more just society for all of humanity.

Note: This topic was originally prepared to discuss the genocide in Darfur in 2007.