

Croydon Unitarians



Our Building's 50th Anniversary Service 1 November, 2009

*Service leader: Rev Art Lester
Music: Elizabeth Hills and Andrew Wickens*

Prelude: "Turkish March"- *Mozart*

Introit by the Choir: "As Torrents in Summer"

Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; Music: Edward Elgar

Chalice Lighting and Opening Words

Hymn: The Flame of Truth

The flame of truth is kindled, our chalice burning bright
Amongst us moves the spirit, in whom we take delight.
We worship here in freedom with conscience unconstrained,
A pilgrim people thankful of what great souls have gained.

(Continued overleaf)

The flame of thought is kindled, we celebrate the mind;
Its search for deepest meaning that time-bound creeds can't bind.
We celebrate its oneness with body and with soul,
With universal process, with God who makes us whole.

The flame of love is kindled, we open wide our hearts,
That it may burn within us, fuel us to do our parts.
Community needs building, a Commonwealth of Earth,
We ask for strength to build it- a new world come to birth.

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Gathering Prayer

Welcome by Rev Steve Dick

50th Anniversary Hymn

*(new words by **John Boaler**; tune: "How Can I Keep from Singing?")*

Way back in nineteen fifty-nine
We sought a new location.
Our previous home we left behind;
They planned a new bus station.
Where could we go? What could we do?
Our doubts and fears were mounting.
But we moved on, our doubts have gone-
That's fifty years and counting.

The traffic sound around us roars
And sirens warn of danger.
We're not alone within these walls,
For no one is a stranger.
While people come and people go,
Too numerous to mention,
Our open doors are symbol still-
That's fifty years and then some.

But bricks alone are not enough-
Minds ever are inquiring.
When times are hard and life gets rough
Our faith remains inspiring.
So to the future we will look
As forbears at our founding,
With freedom, love and hope and joy-
That's fifty years and counting!

Reading: "Affirmation" by Frank Claburn

Musical Interlude: "Dance Espanol"- *Granados*

Meditation and Prayer

Hymn: Bring Many Names

Warm father God, hugging every child,
Feeling all strains of human living,
Caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
Calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
Crying out for justice giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing,
Everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great living God!

Anniversary Sermon: “The Cool Web”
Rev Jane Barraclough

Musical Interlude: “Largo”-- *Veracini*

Notices and Apologies

Hymn: Song of Peace

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine;
This is my home, the country where my heart is,
Here are my hopes my dreams, my holy shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

Closing Words

Postlude: “The Entertainer”- *Scott Joplin*



Please join us for a shared meal.

*There will be a retiring collection in the vestibule after
the service.*