

Order of Service

July 25, 2021

Allison Morrill, Worship Leader

Kathy Muzzy, Worship Associate

Centering Thought

by William F. Schulz

Come into this place of peace
and let its silence heal your spirit;
Come into this place of memory
and let its history warm your soul;
Come into this place of prophecy and power
and let its vision change your heart.

Opening Hymn

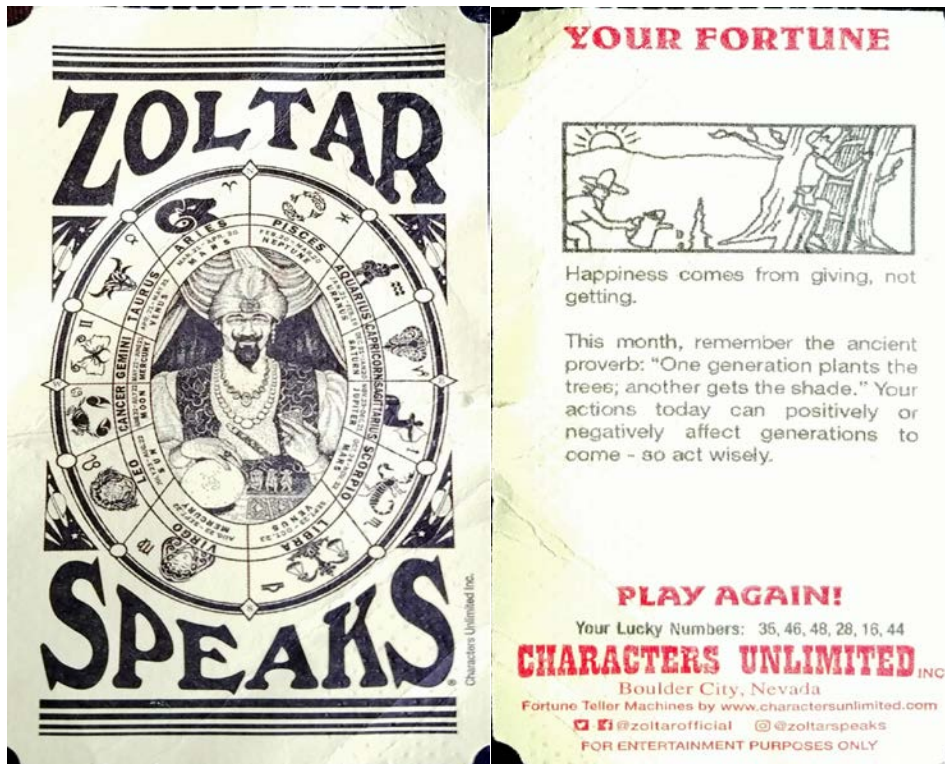
Carolyn McDade's beautiful "[Spirit of Life](#)" performed (virtually during the pandemic) by The Church Choir of First Church Unitarian in Littleton, directed by Molly Lozeau. The signing is performed by First Church member Lorinda Morimoto. Our sister church in Cardiff, Wales, sings this each week as an invocation.

Musical Interlude

The song "[Generations](#)" introduces our theme for today. Written and performed by singer-songwriter Sally Rogers. [Here is a 3-page powerpoint](#) with the lyrics.

Reading

Brief reading comes from a fortune I received from a machine about two years ago: "Zoltar Speaks." It seemed fortuitous, so I saved it.



Offering

Musical Reflection

The fiddle tune “[To Paula](#)” by a young Maine fiddler Mari Black. It’s from her album called “Flight.”

Joys and Sorrows

[The Oneness of Everything](#)

Reading

Words written in 1878 by Marshall Pinckney Wilder:

“It is a sacred duty to preserve the genealogy and history of families, but our busy population are so engrossed in the present cares, that few have had regard for the past, or solicitude for the future history of themselves or their families. But to those who have a respect for their ancestral name I know of no more agreeable duty than to place on record the history and incidents of their lives and their relatives, that they may be preserved to the latest generations. In nothing is the Divine benevolence more fully illustrated than by those ties of friendship and fraternal love which bind the family circle together. I know not of a more cheerless reflection to a social being than the

thought of having no interest in the history of his ancestry; no affectionate regard for those who are to follow him; no record of where or what he has been in life, floating like a bubble in the stream of time, into the ocean of eternity. And next to training the spirit for the Life Eternal, there can be no more noble employment than that of treasuring up and perpetuating the deeds, principles, and virtues of a noble ancestry.”

Musical Reflection

“**Breaths.**” The lyrics are a poem written by Birago Diop. He was a Senegalese poet and storyteller. It is performed by Sweet Honey and the Rock. Diop introduced it with these words. "In the African world view, the *invisible* world of spirit man and the *visible* world of nature exist along a continuum and form an organic reality. The same is true of relationship between the past, present and future." [Here is a 3-page powerpoint](#) with the lyrics.

Homily

The Worship Arts Committee is always grateful when we are gifted with a service by treasured members of our congregation. Allison Morrill is one of those treasured members and she will give the homily today about her personal “genealogical voyage.” The title is “Deconstructing Grandma”

Postlude

The postlude is a song **Ancestors**, sung by the group Hope Sings. It was written collaboratively at the Tree of Life School, a weekly program for girls focused on the wisdom of the International Council of the Thirteen Grandmothers. The Council is a global alliance of prayer, education and healing for our Mother Earth, all Her inhabitants, all the children, and for the next seven generations to come... They say “We join with all those who honor the Creator, and to all who work and pray for our children, for world peace, and for the healing of our Mother Earth. For all our relations.” [Here is a 3-page powerpoint](#) with the lyrics.

Closing Words

May your wisdom now be heard. We are glad you’re in this world. May it be so.

p.s. You can find a handful of Allison’s family stories here:

<http://morrillelrod.capacities.org/welcome/stories>