

WELCOME TO MISSION PEAK UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



Vanessa Solis/Education Week + Madina Asileva/iStock

The California Reparations Report

Worship Leader: Donald Tamaki
Worship Associate: Rev. Barbara Meyers

Worship Host: Steve Wallcave
Music: Peak Performers

Sunday, October 1, 2023 10:00 AM

Service theme for the month: The Spiritual Path

We are very glad that you are with us today and hope you feel our welcome. If you would like to learn more about us and receive our weekly email newsletter, please send an email to welcome@mpuuc.org. We request your name, email, phone number and address. We'd be happy to answer any questions.

Our Mission Statement:

The foundation of Mission Peak is love. We are a spiritual community of open minds, nurturing growth and healing in ourselves and all people. Together we strive to live compassionately and courageously as we work for a nonviolent, just and sustainable world.

We, the Member Congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Covenant to Affirm and Promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of the conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Order of Service

Sunday, October 1, 2023 10-11:15 a.m.

Centering Thoughts

“I believe right now, today, we have a historic opportunity to break the silence, to speak to the ugly past and talk constructively about how we will move this nation forward.” – Cory Booker

“We must confront the dark history of slavery and government-sanctioned discrimination in this country that has had many consequences including undermining the ability of Black families to build wealth in America for generations.” – Elizabeth Warren

“When people think about reparations, they immediately think about people who have been dead for 100 years.” – Ta-Nehisi Coates

Prelude

Bell Rev. Barbara Meyers

Call To Worship Rev. Barbara Meyers

Unison Chalice Lighting Rev. Barbara Meyers

We light this chalice...To remind ourselves to treat all people kindly,
because we are all one family;
To take good care of the Earth, because it is our home;
To live lives full of goodness and love,
because that is how we will become the best people we can be.

Welcome Elizabeth Schaefer

Welcome Song Peak Performers
#347 Gather the Spirit
Music and Words: Jim Scott

Time for all Ages UU children and youth of color
Healing the Broken Chalice
Jae Scott

Practice of Generosity (Offering) Rev. Barbara Meyers

Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:

- Mail check to Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
P.O. Box 545 Fremont, CA 94537-0545
(If you use Bill Pay with your bank, you could use them to mail the check)
- Drop envelope with check in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to:
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
We will be collecting this once per week.
- Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card (Note: 3% surcharge).

Joys and Concerns Invitation Rev. Barbara Meyers

Song of Reflection Peak Performers
Friday, 1 August, 1834: The Abolition of Slavery
Music: Bob Chilcott, Words: Charles Bennett Directed by Shauna Pickett-Gordon

Shared Joys & Concerns Rev. Barbara Meyers

Reading and Silence *Love* Rev. Barbara Meyers
UUA Worship Web

Anthem *How Can I Keep From Singing* Peak Performers
Quaker Hymn, (C. 1800) Directed by Von Bringhurst
Arranged by Gwyneth Walker

Message The California Reparations Report Don Tamaki

Closing Hymn #119 *Once to Every Soul and Nation* Peak Performers
Words: James Russell Lowell, Music: Thomas John Williams

Extinguishing the Chalice #456 Rev. Barbara Meyers
We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,
the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Benediction Rev. Barbara Meyers

Next Week's Service: October 8, 2023 – "Buen Camino"

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Worship Host will be David Gibbons. Jay Steele will provide our music.

The Camino Santiago de Compostella is a path of pilgrims. Although it has, in recent times, been romanticized, it was not established for the romantic. Or the adventurous. It was made for those who were bereft or lost. It was made for those in pain - or whose life consisted of ignoring or resisting pain and couldn't remember what joy looked like. This is a service about Rev. Greg's discoveries on the Camino and his hope for all pilgrims searching for 'the way.'

Go to <https://mpuuc.org/zoom/> for order of service and how to connect for all services

Announcements:

Announcement of Congregational Meeting and Vote Regarding Reparations

The statement to be voted on is: "We endorse the mission and overall efforts of the California Reparations Task Force."

(more information and more announcements on next page)

(Announcement of Congregational Meeting and Vote Regarding Reparations after Service Today continued)

At today's worship service, we have the honor of hearing from Donald Tamaki, a member of the State of California Reparations Task force which released its report on June 19, 2023. The Reparations Task Force, the first initiative of its kind by a state government, spent the past two years documenting how enslavement of African Americans and its enduring legacy of systemic racism cemented structural inequality and recommend many methods for repairing the resulting harm.

The MPUUC Board has spoken with Mr. Tamaki and voted to support this report. The congregation will have an opportunity to vote on whether to support this work as a congregation. **The statement to be voted on is: "We endorse the mission and overall efforts of the California Reparations Task Force."** Mr. Tamaki will be available to answer questions before the vote. Voting can be done both online and in person.

The Task force is collecting endorsements from organizations to make a strong case to the California Legislature that their recommendations be implemented. [Hundreds of organizations](#) including the Tri City Interfaith Council have endorsed the report.

We encourage you to read the [reparations task force report](#) before the meeting and be present in person or online to vote. The report is very long (1100 pages) but there is an [executive summary](#) which contains the main conclusions.

If you will not be able to attend the meeting, and wish to vote, please request an absentee ballot from the MPUUC Treasurer Michelle Wallace at secretary@mpuuc.org. The absentee ballot must be completed and sent to the secretary before the congregational meeting. To understand what Mr. Tamaki will say, you can watch a [video](#) of him speaking to Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

- The MPUUC ARO Committee

Editor's note - From page 3 of the 74-page executive summary **the task force mission appears to be:**

AB 3121 established the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, with a Special Consideration for African Americans Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States (Task Force), and directed the Task Force to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans, taking into account:

- a. the institution of slavery, including the federal and state governments that constitutionally and statutorily supported the institution of slavery;
- b. the legal and factual discrimination against freed slaves and their descendants from the end of the Civil War to the present, including economic, political, educational, and social discrimination;
- c. the lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery on living African Americans and on society in California and the United States;
- d. how instructional resources and technologies deny the inhumanity of slavery and the crime against humanity committed against people of African descent in California and the United States;
- e. the role of Northern complicity in the Southern-based institution of slavery; and
- f. the direct benefits to societal institutions, public and private, including higher education, corporate, religious, and associational.

AB 3121 also required the Task Force to recommend appropriate ways to educate the California public of the Task Force's findings; recommend appropriate remedies in consideration of the Task Force's findings; and submit to the Legislature a report of its work.

In search of mental health family support or peer support resources in the larger Tri-City area? Contact Rev. Barbara Meyers, a mental health educator and peer support provider. Email com_minister@mpuuc.org, or call 510-796-5722.