

Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday, January 3, 2021 via Zoom

Beginning Anew

Music for Gathering “A New Year”

Welcome

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

Opening Song “Morning Has Come”

Sharing Cares and Celebrations

You can send the cares and celebrations you’d like to share with the congregation in an email to nsuu@verizon.net. You can also share a care or celebration using the chat function in Zoom during the service and Rev. Carol will read the cares and celebrations you’ve shared with us this week.

We light one candle for all the cares and celebrations we hold in our hearts.

Story for All Ages “Only the Seed”
Source Unknown

Meditation “Give Up the Fight (breathe)”
Gretchen Haley/Christopher Watkins Lamb

Reading from *The Art of Living*
by Thich Nhat Hanh

Reflection Rev. Carol Strecker

Offertory

Offertory music “Minuet in G” from the Anna Magdalena
Notebook” by J.S. Bach Arr. Phillip Keveren

Announcements

Closing Song “Just As Long As I Have Breath”

Closing Words

Thich Nhat Hanh

“Every morning, when we wake up, we have 24 brand-new hours to live. What a precious gift!”

Blessing

*May love surround us,
May joy gladden us,
May peace lie deep within.
And my our lives,
And the lives of all
Those we touch, go well.*

Edwin C. Lynn

Music Notes

A New Year

This song was commissioned by 92Y in the year 2016. It's composer, Michael Hunter Ochs writes, “ (It) is a tribute to the powerful message of hope and renewal of the New Year – and to the art of collaboration. I cannot overstate the impact of this song of Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein and his team at the 92Y.” For 145 years, 92nd Street Y has been serving its communities and the larger world by bringing people together and providing exceptional, groundbreaking programs in the performing and visual arts; literature and culture; adult and children's education; talks on a huge range of topics; health and fitness; and Jewish life.

*May this be the year of love and kindness
May strangers come to be friends
May truth and compassion always guide us, Amen*

*May this be the year of hope and healing
For all of those in need
May all of our deeds be a blessing, Amen.*

*A new year, a good year, a chance to start all over
A new year, a sweet year, a chance to bring us closer*

*May this be a year of selfless giving
May this be a year of peace
And may we forgive and be forgiven, Amen*

*A new year, a good year, a chance to start all over
A new year, a sweet year, a chance to bring us closer*

*Closer to the ones we love
A world that we can be proud of
As long as there are stars above,
There comes a new year, and let us say, Amen*

Give Up the Fight (breathe)

Gretchen Haley wrote this prayer as a call to worship a couple years ago. Christopher Watkins Lamb used it as inspiration for this powerful song. Here are the two put together, mixed with images along the Poudre River. Haley and Lamb are minister and music director respectively at Foothills Unitarian Church in Fort Collins, Colorado

Minuet in G

Minuet in G, a selection from *Notebooks for Anna Magdalena*, J.S. Bach was arranged by Phillip Keveren's and one of the selections in his *Classical Jazz, 15 Masterworks*. Keveren writes in the preface of this collection: I approached writing this book with excitement and a certain amount of trepidation. I love jazz and I love the classics. I've heard some wonderful arrangements where jazz and classic idioms worked together quite successfully. So, the bottom line is I was a bit nervous about this arranging adventure. One cannot improve the harmony of a Chopin Ballade or a Bach Minuet, but it is fun to place these masterful melodies in fresh, contemporary settings. It was fun!

By 1721 Anna Magdalena was employed as a singer (soprano) at the princely court of Anhalt-Cothen, Johann Sebastian Bach had been working there as Capellmeister, or director of music, since December 1717. Anna and Johann married on 3 December 1721, 17 months after the death of his first wife, Maria Barbara Bach. In 1723, the Bachs moved to Leipzig when Johann Sebastian accepted the position of Cantor at the *Thornasschule*. Anna continued to sing professionally after her marriage

The Bachs' shared interest in music contributed to their happy marriage. She regularly worked as a copyist, transcribing her husband's music, which she sold as a means to contribute to the family income. Bach wrote a number of compositions dedicated to her, most notably the two distinct Notebooks for Anna Magdalena Bach. During the Bach family's time in Leipzig, Anna Magdalena organized regular musical evenings featuring the whole family playing and singing together with visiting friends. Their home became a musical center in Leipzig

Together they raised the children from his first marriage and had 13 children of their own from 1723 to 1742, seven of whom died at a young age. After Johann Sebastian's death in 1750, Anna Magdalena was left alone, to care for herself and her two youngest daughters along with her stepdaughter from Bach's first marriage. She became increasingly dependent upon charity and handouts and died on the street the 20th of February, 1760, with no money at all and was buried in an unmarked pauper's grave at Leipzig's Johanniskirche (St. John's Church.) The church was destroyed in Allied bombing during World War II.

Just as Long as I Have Breath

Just as long as I have breath, I must answer "Yes," to life,
Though with pain I made my way, still with hope I meet each day
If they ask what I did well, tell them I said, "Yes," to life.

Just as long as vision lasts, I must answer, "Yes," to truth;
In my dream and in my dark, always: that elusive spark.
If they ask what I did well, tell them I said "Yes," to truth.

Just as long as my heart beats, I must answer, "Yes," to love;
Disappointment pierced me through, still I kept on loving you.
If they ask what I did best, tell them I said, "Yes," to love.