

## Hymnal #586 The Idea of Democracy

As labor is the common burden of our race, so the effort of some to shift their share of the burden onto the shoulders of others is the great, durable curse of the race.

As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master.

This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.

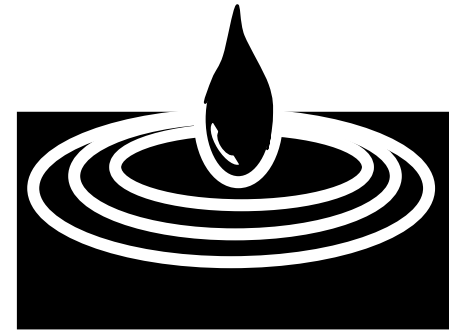
Our reliance is in our love for liberty; our defense is in the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all people in all lands everywhere.

Destroy this spirit, and we have planted the seeds of despotism at our own doors.

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and cannot long retain it.

Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world?

Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
SAN JOSE

## After the Election

No matter how far you have gone on the wrong road, turn back.  
- *Turkish proverb*

What you do is of little significance; but it is very important that you do it.  
- *Mohandas K. Gandhi*

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.  
- *Martin Luther King Jr., as he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize*

**Preliminaries** Remind members that being Unitarian and being a Democrat are not synonymous. We must have room in this faith for all.

**Chalice Lighting**  
- George E. Odell

We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted.  
*We need one another when we are in trouble and afraid.*

We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation, and need to be recalled to our best selves.  
*We need one another when we would accomplish some great purpose, and cannot do it alone.*

We need one another in the hour of success, when we look for someone to share our triumphs.  
*We need one another in the hour of defeat, when with encouragement we might endure, and stand again.*

We need one another when we come to die, and would have gentle hands prepare us for the journey.  
*All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us.*

**Check-in** Please take minute or two to share briefly what's been on your mind lately.

**Reading**  
- Abraham Lincoln  
(hymnal #586)  
(read round the circle the reading on the back cover)

**Sitting in Silence**

**Sharing/ Deep Listening** Please keep your sharing to your personal feelings and experiences.

**Discussion** *This is a time to respond briefly to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared*

**Singing**  
Hymnal #155

I'm on my way to the freedom land.  
I'm on my way to the freedom land.  
I'm on my way to the freedom land  
I'm on my way, great God, I'm on my way.

I asked my sister, come and go with me. (*repeat 3 times*)  
I'm on my way, great God, I'm on my way.

I asked my brother, come and go with me. (*repeat 3 times*)  
I'm on my way, great God, I'm on my way.

If they say no, I'll go anyhow. (*repeat 3 times*)  
I'm on my way, great God, I'm on my way.

I'm on my way, and I won't turn back. (*repeat 3 times*)  
I'm on my way, great God, I'm on my way.

**Closing / Extinguishing the Chalice**  
- Jonalu Johnstone

*Join hands or link arms as you read the closing words together:*

I shall take my voice wherever there are those  
who want to hear the melody of freedom  
or the words that might inspire hope and courage  
in the face of despair and fear.  
My weapons are peaceful,  
for it is only by peace that peace can be attained.  
The song of freedom must prevail

