

Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham
Order of Service: Sunday, March 23, 2008

**EASTER SUNDAY FLOWER COMMUNION
AND CHILD DEDICATION**

*“Easter is a verb. It is a radical decision of the human heart.
A brave and beautiful decision to live—fully,
courageously—even in the face of death and despair itself.”*
-- Rev. Scott Alexander

GATHERING

RINGING OF BELL

PRELUDE

Dr. Cynthia Jones, Accompanist

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #61 “Lo, the Earth Awakes Again”

BRINGING FORTH OF THE FLOWERS

(children lead procession with flowers, followed by Sharron and
Bill—will choir also process—are they singing?)

CHALICE LIGHTING AND BLESSING OF THE FLOWERS

(responsive reading) Ginny Loggins, Service Leader

The flowers we share this day are sacred.

Blossoms, gifts of the earth to celebrate life.

The friendship we share this day is sacred.

*All gatherings when people meet and touch,
celebrate life.*

The laughter we share this day is sacred.

Joys that rise from love are springs of life.

The stillness we share this day is sacred.

*In this peace is a haven for the spirit
which nurtures life.*

For flowers, for friends, for joys, for the comfort of
quietness: blessed are we.”

TIME FOR ALL AGES

CHILD DEDICATION (see insert)

Rev. Leggett and Sharon Mendel

HYMN DEDICATED TO OUR CHILDREN # 409

“Sleep, My Child” Accompanist

COMMUNITY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Service Leader
CANVASS PRESENTATION Darryl Hunt, President of Church
WELCOME FROM THE MINISTER
SPECIAL MUSIC Charles West, Vocalist and Pianist

OFFERTORY

WORDS

MUSIC

Accompanist

FLOWER COMMUNION RITUAL

THE FLOWER COMMUNION HOMILY *Growing Pains* Minister

THE FLOWER COMMUNION STORY Sharron Mendel

THE FLOWER COMMUNION PRAYER Minister

*THE FLOWER COMMUNION HYMN #8

“Mother Spirit, Father Spirit,” by Norbert F. Capek

THE COMMUNION WITH THE SHARING OF THE FLOWERS

GOING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN # 269 “Lo, the Day of Days Is Here”

Accompanist

*EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE LIGHT (in unison)

*Between the dawn and dusk of our being,
let us be brave and loving.*

*In our little passage through the light
let us sustain and forward the human venture -- in gentleness,
in service, and in thought. Amen. –Carl Seaburg*

POSTLUDE

Charles West, Vocalist and Pianist

CLOSING WORDS

Minister



*The flowers in the sanctuary today are donated by Danny
Mendel
in celebration of Any Mendel’s and Amelia Mendel’s
birthdays.*

(*Please rise in body and/or spirit)

**Today is an Intergenerational Service with our youth and
children present during the worship hour. Let us welcome them
into this hour of family worship!**

HOSPITALITY AND CONNECTING

Welcome to guests and newcomers! We invite you to gather for coffee and conversation following the service. Copies of our most recent church newsletter (dated March, 2008) are available on the display table near the sanctuary entrance. Please fill out a Guest Card on the round table near the church entrance, and indicate if you would like to be on our weekly e-mail distribution list, and on our monthly newsletter distribution list.

The Pickett Room, across from the Sanctuary, serves as a Crying Room for families with young babies who wish to hear the service. The church has Hearing Aid Devices for your use during the worship service. Please see the usher for assistance. Please switch phones & beepers to silent mode.

Notes on Today's Service

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.: Easter Flower Communion and Child Dedication. Homily: *Growing Pains*. Rev. Leggett and Director of Religious Ed Sharron Mendel

Greeters: Juanzetta Flowers Debra and Jan Elder-Hart

Accompanist: Dr. Cynthia Jones **Service Leader:** Ginny Loggins

Special Music: Charles West, vocalist/pianist

Logistics Coordinator: Mark Williams

Offering Coordinator: Tom Sheffield & Bob or Barbara Koehler

Flowers: Arranged by Judy Deegan (see donation credits in order of service)

Coffee Hosts: Elisa Aboatiyeh, Vera Weber & The Aboatiyeh Children

Sunday, March 30

Childcare before and during services: Margaret Gordon, Lauren Lanehart. **Sunday Supervisor** ~ Kristin Laus-Hunt

Preschool: We are Many, We are One ~ We All Belong to the Family ~ Richard Rouco, Ravina Gandhakwala, Arden Craft

Lower Elementary: Stories About God ~ Mother Mawu Wants Peace ~ Scott Gordon, Peggy Gordon, Lauren Johnson

Upper Elementary: We Believe ~ The Web of Humankind ~ Kim Homer, [SUB]. **Middle School:** It Starts with Me! Why UU? ~ Patti Steelman, Helen Rivas. **High School:** Life Issues for Teens (LIFT) ~

Rape ~ Jerri Gilbert, Dave Anderson

-- *We always are on the lookout for fabulous people who would like to volunteer with the RE program either as substitute teachers, Sunday Supervisors, or something else. If you would like to get involved, please contact Sharron Mendel, dre@uucbham.org or 945-8109.*

THE CANVASS IS COMING!

BREAKING CANVASS NEWS! YOU DEMANDED IT AND WE'VE RESPONDED! A canvass without world-class entertainment? Nonsense you said! So, on March 29th from 6pm to 8pm we will have a CANVASS EXTRAVAGANZA at the church. Entertainment will be provided by our own talented church members and hor d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided. Childcare will be available with pizza downstairs for the kiddies. We hope to see you there - Come one, come all!

--Darryl Hunt, President of the Congregation

Sanctuary Art Exhibit

During March and April, David Corliss is exhibiting his photographs in the church's sanctuary. A catalogue of his works is found on the lectern near the rear double doors. The catalogue includes pricing and purchasing information. David is donating 10% of all sales to the church.

UUCB Casserole Drive: Feed Someone and Make a Difference!

Don't forget our once-a month casserole drive for Pathways, a local shelter for homeless women and children. This month, casseroles are due **Sunday, March 16th**. Warmest thanks to everyone who made a casserole last month. If you'd like to get involved or just have some questions, contact Carrie Crenshaw.

Knit UUs Together- March 26 -6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Did you resolve to be more creative in 2008? Or to learn a new skill? Then join us on March 26! Bring whatever portable project you have going on and enjoy the camaraderie. Knit UUs Together meets the 4th Wednesday of every month in the Pickett Room or in the Middle School Room. Childcare is provided.

Civil Rights Visitors March 28, 7:30 p.m.

On Friday evening, March 28, we will be visited by a group that will have spent a week touring southern civil rights sites. The tour group, sponsored by Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, is mostly Unitarian Universalist and will include seven students for our ministry and six ministers. We will be providing coffee and dessert. They are interested in hearing stories of our members who were active in the civil rights movement, and there may be additional programming as well. You are invited to join this gathering at 7:30 p.m.