

# River of Grass UU Congregation

February 6, 2022 – 10:30 am

## Democracy in the Balance

### 4<sup>th</sup> in our 2022 Bending the Arc/Intersectional Justice Series

“Your vote – your voice!” We’ve all heard the chant, but is it really true? And why are some people working so hard to make it harder for some of us to vote at all? Our Fifth Principle of Unitarian Universalism calls for the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. UUs historically have been and still are in the struggle for democracy, and yet, while many of us have taken the democratic process for granted, too many others within our society are at risk of losing the sanctity of their vote, their voice in our democratic process – or never had it fully secured at all. Join us this Sunday to consider how we are called to action at this intersection toward Justice in our time.

Come as you are to gather with us in our love-streamed service, remembering only the medium is virtual; the connections, the love, the spirit are real. Following the service, we will share virtual Hospitality time with a live chat and small groups where we can relish each other’s beautiful faces and voices together once again.

Follow the link below to join us in Zoom – or if you’d like, we’ll be simulcasting on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu>. Tune in there for the service, then log onto our Zoom link for hospitality time afterward.

We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

#### Topic: Worship February 6, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

See you then!

Rev. Amy Carol Webb

# Democracy in the Balance

River of Grass – February 6, 2022 – Order of Service

## Oh, Let Us Gather

### Welcome

**Reading / Call to Worship** – “Democracy” by Langston Hughes

**Theme Hymn** – “Draw the Circle Wide” Words: Gordon Light; Music: Mark A. Miller; Performed by: River of Grass Virtual Choir

**Chalice Lighting** – Chalice Lighting for a Democracy That Should, by: Adrian Ballou

We light this chalice for the democracy that should and could still be.

We light this chalice for the creativity, brilliance, energy, organizing, and hope that has been spent on ensuring the right to vote for all.

We light this chalice because it is a human right for everyone to have a say in the way they are governed.

We light this chalice for everyone feeling pain, loss, anger, and more in the face of such a deep environment of injustice.

We light this chalice for everyone who is directly impacted when voting rights are taken away.

We light this chalice for you, if that is you, for us, if that is us.

We light this chalice for those who do not have hope right now.

May we hold together the thread of hope together in our community, with space to leave slack when we are struggling to pick up the thread when, in community, we have held each other up and replenished our stores.

We light this chalice for all, past and future, who continue to dream and build towards a world where everyone is treated with the inherent worth and dignity they have.

We light this chalice to keep on working towards the world we know could be.

### Covenant

*Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its law.*

*This is our great covenant:*

*to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.*

*El Amor es el espíritu de esta congregación, y el servicio su ley principal.*

*Esta es nuestra gran promesa:*

*vivir juntos en paz, buscar la verdad a través del amor, y ayudarnos mutuamente.*

**Music Hymn** – “This Is My Song” Words: Jean Sibelius; Music: Lloyd Stone; Performed by: Brenda Parker

### Candles of Community

### Pastoral Response

### Announcements

### 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Testimony

### Thank You!

**Offering** – Give digitally and via text: <https://riverofgrassuu.org/donations.html>

**Offering Hymn** – “Come Together” Words & Music: John Lennon and Paul McCartney; Performed by:  
Aaron Stang

**Wisdom Story** – “What About Voting Rights: A History of Voting Rights in the United States”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFNq2hnpak>

**Music Meditation** – “America the Beautiful” Words: Katharine Lee Bates; Music: Samuel A. Ward;  
Performed by: Brenda Parker

**Message Part 1** – Democracy in the Balance – Part 1 - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

**Message Part 2** – Meditation on Democracy – Side with Love - Rev. Lisa Garcia-Sampson,  
Executive Director of Forward Together - UU Justice Ministry of North Carolina

**Message Part 3** – Democracy in the Balance – Part 2 - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

**Closing Music** – “I Pledge Allegiance” Words & Music: Gary Gonzalez; Performed by: Gary Gonzalez,  
Sarah Gonzalez, Emily Gonzalez

**Extinguish Chalice**

**Closing Words**

**Carry the Flame**

**Hospitality Connection**