

## SIGNS OF OUR FAITH – SESSION 11

A person will worship something, have no doubt about that. We may think our tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of our hearts, but it will out. That which dominates our imaginations, and our thoughts will determine our lives, and our character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

This session introduces worship with our UU faith communities as a sign of our faith. Children learn some components of a Unitarian Universalist worship service and may create a mini-worship.

Think of a worship service you attended or helped plan that was particularly moving. Why was it so? What worthy matters were addressed in the service? Which elements of the worship particularly touched you? What worship rituals mean the most to you?

Perhaps worship is not one of your favorite activities in the congregation. Have you experienced meaningful worship in another setting? Reflect on that experience instead.

### **Activity: Story - Worship at Camp Taylor**

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/signs/session11/287930.shtml>

Tell or read the story.

Mention that, in the story, worship took place in the woods. Ask if worship must happen inside a special building. Ask if worship only happens in a group or may an individual worship alone. Affirm that you may worship at any time, with or without anyone, and at any place.

### **Activity: Worship Components**

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/signs/session11/287934.shtml>

The link is for a handout listing the components of a worship service. Ask your child to name parts of a worship service they can recall or imagine. As they respond, explain how their suggestions correspond with items on the list. For example, "singing when we come in/go out" could be the gathering or the closing. "Hearing a story" could be receiving. "Passing a basket for money" is giving.

Once you have noted all or most of the items on the list, invite your child to think about the story about Ricardo's worship in the woods. Guide them to identify components of worship from the story and discover how your congregation includes the same components. For example, Ricardo's worship service included a gathering: singing "Come, Come, Whoever You Are." How does your congregation gather for worship? By ringing chimes or playing a prelude? Note: If your child has little experience of worship in the congregational setting, it is sufficient to highlight one or two components of worship. Aim to give them a taste.

Point out that lighting the chalice to open worship is the most common ritual of Unitarian Universalist communities all over the world. Give your child the opportunity to create their own short worship service.