

UU Casper  
**Flower Communion & Maypole Dance**  
May 3, 2026

**9:50 am**

**Jayne: Prelude music** 10 minute

***Gathering and Welcome***

**RING CHIME**

**Cindy: Welcome/Introductions, children [stay/to RE #413 Go Now in Peace]**

Good morning! I'm Cindy Wright and I'm this morning's service leader. I am also the chair of the Membership Committee. Welcome to this morning's very special traditional Flower Communion service which will finish out with a maypole dance. The first flower Communion was led by Norbert Čapek in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1923 and brought to the United States by his wife Maja V. Čapek in 1940. Today we get to share in that very special service. Since it will make more sense to go straight to coffee hour after the maypole dance, we will start today off with announcements.

**Cindy: Housekeeping Items**

- Please check that your cell phone is muted.
- Exits
- Bathrooms
- Tea, Coffee & snacks

**Cindy: Announcements**

Before our Postlude begins, we have a few announcements for the good of the community

- Upcoming events, groups, and services can be found in your OOS, on our website, and in the weekly newsletter.
- Izaak Walton League Hike: Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 PM
- Weekly Meditation: Friday, May 8 at 6:00 PM
- Saturday Sing-Along – Song Share: Saturday, May 9 at 6:00 PM
- Next service: Antarctica - 10 Days in Awe by Alan Vandeventer
- Does anybody else, in the sanctuary or Zoom, have other announcements, for the good of the community?

**Cindy: Chalice Lighting - *Dazzled* by Cindy Wright**

We light this chalice to honor the light within each of us—a single thread in the vast tapestry of life. As we gather today with flowers from our gardens and roadsides, let this flame warm our

UU Casper  
**Flower Communion & Maypole Dance**  
May 3, 2026

hearts and illuminate the connections that bind us to the Earth and to one another. May we be dazzled by the uniqueness of each one among us and strengthened by our unity.

## ***Flower Communion***

### **Introduction**

Today, we gather around the value of Curiosity.

The Flower Communion is more than just a beautiful tradition; it is a ritual designed to spark our curiosity about one another. It encourages us to practice compassion and empathy by looking closer. When you eventually come forward to take a flower that you did not bring, you are making a gesture of curiosity—showing a willingness to welcome the unknown and to recognize the 'unique living poem' within every other person.

As we hold this theme of curiosity today, many of us are thinking of our friend and longtime member, Richard Turner, who passed away on Wednesday. Richard brought so much of himself to this community—not only his presence, but his mind, his music, and his deeply thoughtful engagement.

In recent years, Richard led services here on topics like forgiveness, justice, and self-understanding. Those choices were a perfect reflection of who he was: intellectually curious, deeply reflective, and always attentive to the human condition.

Richard was a man shaped by both reason and wonder. He often told a story that began with a simple musical puzzle: he wanted to understand why two specific notes on a bassoon behaved differently. That one question led him from acoustics to physics, then to calculus and computer programming—eventually leading to his career as a programmer for the state of Wyoming.

It is a perfect glimpse into his mind—his habit of following a question wherever it led. You can still hear him tell this story in his own voice through the Wyoming Symphony Oral History Project.

In his philosophical work, *To the Sunny Beach: the guide to a happy life*, Norbert Čapek wrote that 'love and deep interest' are the most vital sources of a person's will. He believed that without this active interest—this curiosity—a human being would 'die like a flower without the sun.'

Today, as we celebrate this communion and remember Richard, let us reclaim that 'deep interest' in the world and in each other. Let us be like the flower that turns toward the light of discovery.

As we move through this service, I invite you to look at the flowers in the vases today not just as decorations, but as questions waiting to be asked.

UU Casper  
**Flower Communion & Maypole Dance**  
May 3, 2026

**Hymn: My Life is Made Worthwhile** by Norbert Čapek

Norbert Čapek wrote the text of the hymn, My Life is Made Worthwhile on March 31, 1942 in the Dachau concentration camp. The song was saved by his daughter Zora, who was imprisoned with him. The song lay forgotten for decades in the Religious Society of Czech Unitarians archive called Unitaria, where it was discovered . We will listen to the song in the Czech language and there will be English subtitles at the bottom of the screen.

Screenshare: <https://youtu.be/gj67ybQpo3Y?si=wR0nZ6mdJb4Cb-vt>

**Cindy: \*Unison Covenant**

Love is the spirit of this church and service its cause.

This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,  
to seek truth in love, and to help one another.

James Vila Blake (adapted)

UU Casper  
**Flower Communion & Maypole Dance**  
May 3, 2026

**Kem: Spring Prayer by Jess Reynolds, from Love Like Thunder**

**Spring Prayer**

by Jess Reynolds, from *Love Like Thunder*

Spirit of Life, we come seeking stillness.

The world is bursting with green,  
with frenetic energy and a desperate need  
to fill the empty spaces with life.

We are bursting, too,  
our hands frantic to fill  
the blank slots on our calendars  
and the empty spaces in our gardens.  
We all have leafless branches and flat, dark soil.

There is no guarantee  
that we will sprout this year as we have before.

Spirit of Life, we seek your blessing.  
May your hands join ours as we tend our gardens,  
coaxing life from our sleeping seeds.

May you sit with us in the quiet,  
settling our hearts into a space for waiting,  
taking in the sun and rain  
so that we, too, might bloom.

Blessed be.

UU Casper  
**Flower Communion & Maypole Dance**  
May 3, 2026

**Cindy: Flower Communion**

*Consecration of the Flowers (Norbert Čapek's words):*

“Infinite Spirit of Life, we ask thy blessing on these, thy messengers of fellowship and love. May they remind us amid diversities of knowledge and of gifts, to be one in desire and affection, and devotion to thy holy will. May they also remind us of the value of comradeship, of doing and sharing alike. May we cherish friendship as one of thy most precious gifts. May we not let awareness of another's talents discourage us, or sully our relationship, but may we realize that, whatever we can do, great or small, the efforts of all of us are needed to do thy work in this world.”

It is time now for us to share in the Flower Communion. I ask that as you each in turn approach the communion vase you do so quietly – reverently – with a sense of how important it is for each of us to address our world and one another with grace, fairness, and love. I ask that you select a flower – different from the one you brought – that particularly appeals to you. As you take your chosen flower – noting its particular shape and beauty – please remember to handle it carefully. It is a gift that someone else has brought to you. It represents that person's unique humanity, and therefore deserves your kindest touch. Let us share quietly in this Unitarian Universalist ritual of oneness and love.

*Ritual Commences....*

UU Casper  
**Flower Communion & Maypole Dance**  
May 3, 2026

**Orion: Dr. Čapek's Flower Communion prayer**

Listen now to Dr. Čapek's Flower Communion prayer:

In the name of Providence, which implants in the seed the future of the tree and in the hearts of [all people], the longing for people living in [human] love; in the name of the highest, in whom we move and who makes [our family members] who they are; in the name of sages and great religious leaders, who sacrificed their lives to hasten the coming of [peace and justice]--let us renew our resolution--sincerely to be (our best selves) regardless of any kind of bar which estranges [one from another]. In this holy resolution may we be strengthened, knowing that we are [a family who shares a holy spirit;] that one spirit, the spirit of [life and] love, unites us. [May we] endeavor for a more perfect and joyful life. Amen.

**Cindy: Joys and Concerns**

The spirit of love is with us: it comforts us and connects us. If you have a joy or a concern this morning, you are invited to come forward and light a candle and share with our community. If you prefer, you may raise your hand and I will bring you a prayer card. When finished writing please place your card in the purple Altar of Hope box on the bookshelf at the rear of the sanctuary. Altar of Hope cards will be burned in the next burning ceremony as a symbolic joining with universal healing energies. All offerings are private and treated with reverence and respect.

As we share our joys and concerns this morning, we also remember Norbert Čapek, who created the Flower Communion. He died in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II.

And yet, the ritual he created—a celebration of beauty, individuality, and community—lives on. Each time we gather in this way, we carry forward his hope for a more loving and connected world.

[[Joys and Concerns are shared]]

UU Casper  
**Flower Communion & Maypole Dance**  
May 3, 2026

**Cindy: Sharing the fruits of our labor and good fortune**

We invite you to share the fruits of our labor and good fortune. We give to remind ourselves how many gifts we have to offer. We give to remember that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. We give because we believe in music and sacred space. We give with the faith that, together, we have enough. You are now invited to participate in the blessing of giving to this free religious community.

**Cindy: Extinguish the Chalice**

Before we head outside, we extinguish this flame in the name of fire safety, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.

***Maypole Dance***

**Cindy: Maypole Dance (Outside)**

How many of you would like to participate in the maypole dance? If you do, please stand over here - Elizabeth and I will give you instructions. The rest of the group - please join our musicians over here. [indicate where]

Maypole - Elizabeth and Cindy distribute handout and explain dance:

The Orientation: Half the group faces Clockwise (The "Suns"), half faces Counter-Clockwise (The "Moons").

The Pattern: "Suns" go over the first person coming toward them, then under the next. "Moons" do the opposite.

The Ribbon Height: If you are going Over, lift your ribbon high. If you are going Under, duck your head slightly and pass beneath the other person's ribbon.

The Golden Rule: Don't stop moving! If you make a mistake, just keep going with the flow—the "mistakes" are just part of our unique community tapestry.

*Back up music (probably won't need):*

[https://soundcloud.com/thomas-chiappisi-1/mairis-wedding-fiddle-guitar?si=330074ad708b40f29e855a98c8529366&utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/thomas-chiappisi-1/mairis-wedding-fiddle-guitar?si=330074ad708b40f29e855a98c8529366&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

UU Casper  
**Flower Communion & Maypole Dance**  
May 3, 2026

Dancers, please take a ribbon in your hand, but do not start moving yet. Before we begin the weave, let us pause to bless these ribbons and the intentions we bring to this circle.

We hold these ribbons—vibrant, distinct, and full of potential. Right now, they are just single strands. But as we move together, they will become something more. They represent the sacred threads of our community—our stories, our help, our laughter, and our shared work. May these ribbons be blessed as we weave them. May our steps be light, our hands be steady, and our hearts be open to the patterns we create together. Let's begin.

**Cindy: Closing Words**

The Maypole is woven, the flowers are exchanged, and our circle is complete. As you leave this grass and move toward the table of fellowship, carry a piece of this morning's sunlight in your heart. Blessed be the flowers, blessed be the dancers, and blessed be the community we create together. Please join us for coffee and snacks! I invite you to keep your flower with you as you visit—let it be a conversation starter and a reminder of the 'living poem' you carry home today.

**Tech Team: Clean up**