

FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND, 2024



Dearly Beloved,

Happy spring! Director of Music Mark David Buckles; collaborative pianist Hyunju Jung; soprano Hannah Shanefield; Hannah's partner, double bassist Christopher Hernandez; Jazz Artist in Residence Joe Della Penna; and I have thoroughly enjoyed collaborating to bring you this Sunday's service in celebration of Purim, the joyful holiday celebrating the great biblical hero, Esther!

My colleague Elie Weinstock, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, explains that the theology scaffolding this holiday is the teaching that "the physical world ... simply [masks the hand of G*d] in everything; [the spiritual work is] to see behind the mask to the hidden face, symbolizing the 'hidden face' of G*d." Though many Unitarian Universalists wouldn't use that language,

we can certainly engage the possibility that there is mystery everywhere; sometimes, we're in the right place at the right time to tap into it — and even, to bring the magic! My sermon — lifted from the most famous line in the Book of Esther — is called *For Such a Time as This*.

*

And a reminder: No one seems to know where we came up with the expression "to put on the dog," and no one seems to be able to explain just how the date for Easter is determined (hint: it's not just the Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox; it involves a *computus* — a medieval set of tables for calculating astronomical events and movable dates), but both are going to happen at Arlington Street on Sunday, March 31st: We'll be putting on the dog for Easter!

Faithfully yours, with love, *Kim*





