

**A SPECIAL CONCERT TO CELEBRATE
THE REV. DR. EDWARD THOMPSON'S 40 YEARS AT
THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN WESTPORT – Sunday, June 3, 2018, 10:00 a.m.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME	Cheryl Dixon Paul, Worship Associate
CHALICE LIGHTING	Cheryl Dixon Paul
OPENING WORDS	Rev. Dr. John Morehouse
OPENING HYMN	# 36 “When in Our Music”
STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION:	<i>Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.</i>
MUSIC “Ubi Caritas”	Paul Halley
CONGREGATIONAL READING	Lynda Shannon and the Congregation
MUSIC “Marvellous Error”	Machado/Halley, Jenna Jacobs, soloist
REFLECTION	Rev. Frank Hall, Minister Emeritus
CANDLES OF GRATITUDE	
SINGLE CANDLE	Cheryl Dixon Paul
A Pastoral Care Associate will be present at the candle boat after service.	
MEDITATION	
MUSIC “We Will Rejoice For Evermore”	Paul Halley
GREETINGS FROM THE COMMUNITY	Rev. Morehouse
OFFERING	
REFLECTIONS	Marion Wertheim, Jane Sherman and Rev. Morehouse



An Open Letter of Gratitude from the
Congregation and the Board of Trustees to
The Rev. Dr. Edward Thompson,
Minister of Music

Lynda - You have given much of yourself to serve our congregation these past 40 years. As a result, there are two words on everyone's tongue today - "thank you." On behalf of a grateful congregation we offer a dozen 'thank-you's' on this day;

The Congregation -

1. **Thank you** for demonstrating grace, love and patience, and for your sense of humor and ready laugh as much as for the brilliance of your musical gifts, insights and leadership.
2. **Thank you** for putting in countless hours, at the piano, the organ, in rehearsing 8 (!) choirs – and so much more. They do not go unnoticed.
3. **Thank you** for continuing to bring new insights, inspiration and music (including so many of your own compositions) to our many choirs and then to our congregation.
4. **Thank you** for the gift of your impeccable character and integrity.
5. **Thank you** for helping countless members and friends of this congregation - of all ages - discover their own musical gifts and talents.
6. **Thank you** for challenging and supporting countless choristers and instrumentalists to undertake new and challenging music that brings excellence to our worship and celebrations.
7. **Thank you** for crafting meaningful and deeply spiritual musical responses to the landmark moments in our congregation—homecoming services and memorial services, weddings and child dedications, holidays and holy days, celebrations of calls-to-ministry and farewells to ministers and friends.
8. **Thank you** for creating programs that help us raise joyful singing children.
9. **Thank you** for the personal investment in continuing your own education to bring to your choirs and the congregation new music and an expanded literature.
10. **Thank you** for walking with us, as one of our ministers, through illnesses, personal grief and loss, and in raising our children and confronting life's great challenges.
11. **Thank you** for the phone calls and emails just to see how we are doing.
12. **Thank you** for all the pot-lucks and pageants, sing-alongs and sight-reading classes, making copies, coaching soloists and building our community.

All - And most of all, thank you for renewing your commitment each Monday morning.

THE CHOIR INVISIBLE

Words from "The Choir Invisible" by George Eliot

Composition by Paul Halley

**Dedication: Commissioned by The Unitarian Church in Westport, Westport CT,
In celebration of forty years of the music ministry of Rev, Dr. Edward Thompson**

Presentation of the Score	Debbie Handler and Sharon Poole
Poem "The Choir Invisible"	Rev. Morehouse and Scott Bryce
World Premier "The Choir Invisible"	George Eliot / Paul Halley

CLOSING HYMN # 318 "We Would Be One"

CLOSING WORDS Rev. Morehouse

POSTLUDE "Freedom Trilogy" Paul Halley

Happy 40th Anniversary, Ed Thompson! A reception following today's service celebrates the 40th anniversary of Ed's Music Ministry here at our church. All are welcome to join this festive event!

We are grateful to all those whose generous special gifts have made the celebration of Ed Thompson's forty years possible and to the many volunteers who made today so special, with special thanks to Julyen Norman who volunteered his time to bring us a wonderful reception brunch.

The Flowers are Dedicated by The Music Committee

With gratitude and thanks for the music ministry of Rev. Dr. Ed Thompson

WELCOME! We're glad you're here this morning. If this is one of your first visits with us, please stop by the visitors' table (below the WELCOME sign) for information and answers to questions you may have about this UU community. And join us after the service for refreshments and conversation. More information about our programs and our Event Calendar can be found at our website

www.uuwestport.org

MUSICAL PROGRAM NOTES FROM REV. DR. ED THOMPSON

While the Special Projects Choir usually sings a summer solstice event on the third Sunday every June, this year we are doing things a little differently. We are concentrating on the work of one composer, Paul Halley Paul Halley (1952 – present), a Grammy Award winning composer, was born in England but spent most of his professional life in the United States. For several years he was the organist and choir master at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. He then moved to Connecticut where he formed several choral organizations in the greater Hartford area. Six years ago he moved his family to Nova Scotia where he is active in church and university music. While the list of his compositions is extensive, we are including five pieces because each of them focuses on a unique aspect of the music ministry: fostering spirituality, inspiring moral commitment, offering gratitude, healing our old wounds and connecting us one to another.

UBI CARITAS is a composition in which two pieces are combined:” Ubi Caritas”, an ancient Gregorian Chant, with “Oba ye, Oba yo batala”, an African Chant. The Ubi Caritas translates as: Where there is charity and love, God is there. The African chant translates as: Praises to Obatala, ruler of the Heavens, praises to Yemaja, ruler of the waters of life, praises to Ra and Ausar, rulers of the light and the resurrected soul. What is so unusual about this piece is that it brings together two traditions, cultures and styles that are very different. One can hear the African rhythms (and cross rhythms) at the same time that we hear Western chant, traditionally unaccompanied, accompanied here with very sophisticated harmonies (chords containing 7ths, 9ths, 11ths and other altered forms). The result of this fusion is something that is totally unique.

MARVELLOUS ERROR was written in 1997 when Halley was in New York and working with the Paul Winter Consort. It is based on a text by the South American poet, Antonio Machado: “Last night as I was sleeping, I dreamt, marvellous error, that a spring was breaking out in my heart. Along which secret aqueduct are you coming to me, water of a new life, that I have never drunk? Last night as I was sleeping, I dreamt , marvellous error, that I had a beehive here inside my heart. And the golden bees were making white combs and sweet honey, from my old failures. Last night, as I was sleeping, I dreamt, marvellous error, that a fiery sun was giving light inside my heart. It was fiery because I felt warmth as from a hearth, and sun because it gave light, and brought tears to my eyes. Last night, as I was sleeping, I dreamt, marvellous error, that it was God here inside my heart.”

There are times in life when we are sure that we have made a bad decision or a serious error. Machado suggests that when we are able to learn from our mistakes, we become a better person. Machado calls this a 'marvellous error'. Another important point which Machado makes is that 'god' is not separate from us and does not judge us. Both of these points are the work of good spiritual communities.

WE WILL REJOICE FOR EVERMORE was written in 2005 and reflects on the ways in which we interface with the Spirit through the natural world and our relationships.

It says: “Let us rejoice in the light of day, the night, the earth, our relationships, including fathers, mothers, and children, in friends who have shared our lives. In this and more, let us rejoice!”

WE WILL REJOICE FOR EVERMORE -- Text from Gates of Prayer 1975

Let us rejoice in the light of day,

In the glory and warmth of the sun, in the reawakening of life, to duty and labor, we rejoice in the light of day.

In the quiet night, with its rest from toil, showing worlds beyond the dark, and its reevaluation of eternity, we rejoice in the peace of night.

In the earth with its hills and valleys, in its wide-spread fields of grain, in its fruit and hidden treasures, we rejoice in earth's beauty today.

In the strength to win our daily bread, and in homes where we find refuge from the cold and storm, we rejoice in our homes today.

THE CHOIR INVISIBLE was commissioned by The Unitarian Church in Westport from Mr. Halley this year and today's performance is the world premiere. Mr. Halley used portions of a poem by George Eliot, written in 1867, that underscores humanitarian ideals. Rev. John offers the following comments:

"This remarkable poem written by George Eliot (pen name of Mary Ann Evans, 1819-1880) is a testament to the best of humanism. Evans, who had become disaffected from her Christian faith, penned this as a response to the Christian promise of an afterlife for only those who are saved. Perhaps concerned that her own soul was in mortal danger, Evans made her claim for a salvation in this life. As its soaring lines demonstrate so ably, the afterlife is not reserved for those who adhere to a creed but for any person who makes the world a better place for others. Linking the power of music to acts of mercy and courage, the poem suggests that all of us, divinely human, have the power to join the immortal through the legacy of our lives."

On a musical level, Halley has written a colorful and imaginative work that projects the emotions found in the poetry. At times one can hear dissonance, at times peaceful harmonies, at other times intense tonal clusters and near the end, consonant progressions which project the idea of the invisible choir "whose music is the gladness of the world". Today will not be the only time we will hear this music!

O MAY I JOIN THE CHOIR INVISIBLE (Excerpt) -- George Eliot (1867)

O may I join the choir invisible
Of those immortal dead who live again
In minds made better by their presence: live
In pulses stirred to generosity,
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn
For miserable aims that end with self,
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night like stars,

May I reach That purest heaven, be to other souls
The cup of strength in some great agony,
Enkindle generous ardour, feed pure love,
Beget the smiles that have no cruelty—
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
And in diffusion ever more intense.
So shall I join the choir invisible
Whose music is the gladness of the world

(The entirety of this inspiring poem can be found through many sources on the Web.)

FREEDOM TRILOGY was also written in 1997. This is a work that is like no other because Halley first states three musical themes: a ninth-century chant (Kyrie eleison), African freedom songs (Halleluya! Pelotsa rona and Siyahamba-We are marching in the Light of God) and Amazing Grace. After developing each theme he then superimposes them and one hears them sung simultaneously!! It is a major feat of contrapuntal technique. Again, as in the Ubi Caritas, there is a fusion of styles, cultures, and traditions which expresses the hope that we have for this global village in which we live. Long may freedom live!

Today would not have been possible without the dedication of our musicians!

We offer many thanks to:

Heather Hamilton, organ and conductor; Beth Palmer, piano; Mike Larocca, percussion; Jim Andrews, bass, and Jenna Jacobs, soprano;

and to the dedicated members of the Special Projects Choir who bring joyful music to our worship practice, today and throughout the year.

Sopranos: Emily Carveth, Lyn Hamilton, Debbie Handler, Susanna Hill, Jenna Jacobs, Jalna Jaeger, Jenny Klein, Sharon Poole Bittenbender, Berta Russell, Karyn Samuelson, Jane Sherman

Altos: Melanie Allen, Linda Hudson, Wendy Levy, Carrie McEvoy, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Anita Pflugger, Lynn Seippel, Peg Ulrich, Jerusha Vogel

Tenors: Chris Beaurline, Randy Burnham, David Callon, Doug Flam, Len Handler, John Hansen, Erik Paul

Basses: Don Bancroft, Paul Bluestein, Mike Costantino, Chuck Harrington, Tom Hearne, John McWeeney, Bart Stuck

And, it is a special joy to have members of our Youth and Teen Choirs join us today.

Teens: Bryce Costawong, Jessie Flam, DJ Flam, Mia Dimon, Hazel Foley, Olivia Foley, Olivia Groell, Aki Lasher, Anna Seiple, Duncan Vogel

Youth: Michael Blake, Miya Lasher, Elizabeth Lee, Henri LaVoie, Nina Olivieri, Esa O'Reilly, Avery Perlstein, Ella Smith, Julian Smith, Maggie Smith, Paige Steele, Aidan Williams, Yeabsera Williams, Ryan Williams

Opportunities to

Inspire, Connect, Act

Plant Sale: TODAY after the service. Proceeds from today's plant sale support the Meditation Garden fund.

Small Group Ministry: Join a group! June's topic is **Blessings**. For information, talk to a representative in the foyer after the service or email Steven Rosenberg at rosen323@aol.com.

UU History Series Part 5 of 7: Evolution (1861-1961) Friday, June 8th from 7-9 pm in the East Wing. This installment features the evolution of Unitarianism & Universalism from Christian, bible-oriented religions to the present-day, non-creedal movement. Hosted by Mary Jane Cross.

Voices Café Presents a Phil Ochs Song Night: Saturday, June 9th at 8 pm. Reggie Harris, Tom Prasada-Rao, Pat Victor, & Greg Greenway interpret the songs of Phil Ochs. Threads of Gospel, R&B, Jazz, Folk, and Pop will be woven into a memorable evening of virtuosity and heart. Tickets are available at voicescafe.org.

HELP! Voices Café musicians need housing Saturday night, June 9th. Contact Tim Wilson at 203/482-5509 if you can help. Thanks.

Plan to Attend -- ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, June 10th at 11:30am.

Our Annual Tag Sale Continues! Set for August 18. Details on donations & drop-off will be in Soundings and a flyer in the foyer. Contact Linda at lhudson30@hotmail.com for more information.