# SOURCES: 

## A Unitarian Universalist Cantata

## for Chorus \& Soloists, Piano, Strings and Percussion

Words by<br>Kendyl Gibbons

Dedicated to the memory of Pat Connet, Mary Beth Cherwin, and Marcia Jett;
friends, teachers, and valued partners in ministry

## Music by <br> Jason Shelton

Dedicated to Amanda Marie Shelton, born March 20, 2005,
who brings joy into my life and who inspired the creation of this work with her smile

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## The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

> Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision.

From the Principles and Purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Adopted as a Bylaw by the 1984, 1985 and 1995 General Assemblies.
from Sources: a Unitarian Universalist Cantata
First movement - Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder,
affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal
of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life

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Words:
Kendyl Gibbons


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Third Source: Wisdom from the world's religions which inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life...
Many windows, one light;
Many waters, one sea;
All lifted hearts are free.

Narrator 1. In the Talmud of the Jewish tradition, the sage Hillel said:
What is hateful to you, do not do to others.
This is the whole of the Law; all the rest is commentary.
Narrator 2. In the Hindu legend of the Mahabharata, the divine Krishna declared:
This is the sum of duty: Do nothing unto others which would cause you pain if done to you.

1. It is written; it is taught; may it be so.

Many windows...
2. In the Gospel of Matthew in the Christian scriptures, the messiah Jesus says: Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

1. In the Buddhist text of the Udanavarga, the student is urged:

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.
2. It is written; it is taught; may it be so.

Many windows...

1. In the Muslim Hadith of al Nawawi, the prophet Mohammed teaches:

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.
2. In the T'ai Shang treatise of Taoism, the seeker is instructed:

Regard your neighbor's gain as your gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss.

1. It is written; it is taught; may it be so.

Many windows...
2. In the ancient wisdom of Shinto there is a saying:

The heart of the person before you is a mirror. See there your own form.

1. The Oglala Lakota spiritual leader Black Elk wrote:

All things are our relatives; what we do to everything, we do to ourselves.
2. It is written; it is taught; may it be so.

Many windows...
Shanti, shalom; hasiti, salaam; heiwa, dohiyi; pax, paco, mir...
Peace...

Pronunciation guide:
Shahn-tee (Hindi), shah-lohm (Hebrew); hah-see-tee (Kurdish), sah-laam (Arabic); hey-wah (Japanese), doh-hee-yee (Cherokee); pahcks (Latin), paht-soh (Esperanto), meer (Russian)

## All Lifted Hearts

Words:
Kendyl Gibbons
from Sources: a Unitarian Universalist Cantata
Third movement - Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life


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 Many win-dows, one light; Al lif-ted hearts_ are free.


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## No Other World

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Sixth Source - Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature...
(wind effects)
Storyteller: Once I dreamt that I beheld a great council of all creation, Called together in order that the wisdom of the spirit of life might be spoken and heard.
(drum begins)
The elders came to the sacred circle of being and said, In all that we do, let the future be considered, unto the seventh generation, That we may leave no wound upon the earth.

The far off mountains echoed, patience... patience... patience.
The grandmothers came to the sacred circle of being and said, Let our bodies be held in reverence, for within them is wisdom, And from them is the holy mystery of birth.

The sheltering trees murmured, strength... strength... strength.
The grandfathers came to the sacred circle of being and said, People must live in truth and kindness with one another, sharing their many gifts, That we may dwell long days together in peace.

The animals called out, respect... respect... respect.
The old ones came to the sacred circle of being and said, The wheel of change turns in seasons and tides, in evening and dawn, and even in death; Let us honor the spirit, in what we take and what we release.

The flowing rivers sighed, let go... let go... let go.
The little ones came to the sacred circle of being and said, (BIG CUE - rehearsal letter F) Behold the wonder of all creation, beauty and abundance; The heart is a drum, and our feet are for dancing.

The stars of the sky sang, joy... joy... joy.
Perhaps it was at the dawn of the world, that great gathering; Perhaps it continues to this very day. In the wind and thunder, the voices still sound, for those who will hear:

Patience; strength; respect; let go; joy... joy... joy.

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# The Sacred Circle 

Words
Kendyl Gibbons

Note: Piece begins with wind effects (wind whistle,
chimes, rainstick, thumder effects, etc.), ad lib.
Time begins after storyteller's first paragraph (...that the Spirit of Life might be heard.)

Return to wind effects at the end of the piece.


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## Sources Rap

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The $1^{\text {st }}$ source supports a natural type feeling
At commencement we knew no love pain or beauty
The terror of innocence - compared to apples heaven sent
Snakes in our garden: I'm begging your pardon?
Guidance thru darkness our soul and our spirit was born just a part of this
The movement was the start of this...
Birth, death, beauty, destruction - let me go on to part 2 of this discussion...

Source 2 goes out to Orishas and voodoo
Starvin' kids in Africa prayin' on juju
We ain't yet got to the part like watcha gon do?
This the human introduction to truth,
Ruthlessly, shamelessly lost
And some people think that suffering began on the cross
Knowledge is power - power is freedom
But for the need to be free sometimes we bleed.

Source 3
Writers and teachers are born in me.
Exposure to oppression from sea to shining sea
But with the words on the page it seems I finally breathe.
Inhalation of Education, Exhalation of Love, the power of one
We returning back home, where the family is strong.
This is the Kingdom of Right
We challenge the streets so we can eat at night
And the palace of peace where we sleep each night.

Source 4 needs no more, to explore or enter the door
To righteousness, MLK was likened to this,
Before they did what they did to our man down in Memphis, But otherwise, there's an end to the lies \& the killing and such,
People may change God willing, but
Enshalla is a word that reminds of us of Arabs and terrorist acts -
Quit fearing the facts.
$5^{\text {th }}$ source $5^{\text {th }}$ course in humanity and vanity
The man is the destroyer of the woman's own sanity
\& vice verse, I mean we all bleed red but to prove it might hurt
We washin' out the stains and pains from our shirts.
Both button ups and blue collars,
We all caught by the tail that makes wanna holla to the heavenly father
We're in pursuit of infinite knowledge
But we're still street scholars.

The $6^{\text {th }}$ has a mix of spirit in this, if $U$ hear it and fear it, deny its own bliss But the truth is religion \& you're spirit don't mix
Each a separate entity, that builds upon serenity
And damages the enemy, or maketh him a friend to me,
So why we claimin' clemency from faith and all its energy?
As simple as a penny be the start of our economy
So follow me - the circle is sacred, and we'll make it.




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 ${ }^{8}$ falsehood can shake - it, The promise is mean - ing In all of ourdays. The promise is jus - tice, To - gether we make — it; The promise is won -

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[^0]:    * Text note - in no way should the choral text ("hey ya") be misconstrued as a kind of language, or worse, a caricature of "native" traditions. The intended effect is purely atmospheric, and the syllables should be sung in a fluid legato style. For a great example of this style of singing, listen to "First Circle" by the Pat Metheny Group.

