

Winchester Unitarian Society

Order of Service

Aug 23, 2020

Centering Thought

“Religion is sometimes defined as a belief in supernatural agents. However, other people regard this definition as shallow and incomplete. The Buddha refused to be associated with any gods. He merely claimed to be awake and to have found a path to enlightenment. I am aware that Buddhism as actually practiced is often chock full of gods, but the opinion of its founder is still relevant. If there is more to religion than belief in supernatural agents, then perhaps science is not as hostile to religion as it is often taken to be.”

David Sloan Wilson, *Darwin's Cathedral*

<https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

Be sure to set your screen to “speaker view” in Zoom (upper right-hand corner of the screen) for best reception of those leading the service.

Our motto: “Connection, not perfection”

Note: Some elements of this service were pre-recorded to ensure broadcast quality.

Gathering Music

Father Abraham

Nathaniel Dett

Community News (In 140 Characters or Less)

Lee Barton

Announcements:

- **Greetings from your co-treasurers Sue Kiewra and Judy Murray!** We hope that you and your loved ones are staying healthy and cool this summer season. We wanted to remind you that we’re closing in on the end of our fiscal year on August 31st and are looking to you to remit the balance of your pledge by then. If you have an open balance, we mailed you a statement in early July that we hope you received. It has been a challenging year with worries about everyone’s health, the economy, the job market, race relations, and the environment. Then there’s the matter of paying our bills and our staff! Please let us know if there are circumstances that will prevent you from fulfilling your pledge. Whatever you tell us will be kept confidential and will assist us in making sure we don’t keep sending you reminders. We value your contributions of time, talent and treasure to the Winchester Unitarian Society as we pull together for peace and justice in the world. If you have any questions or comments, please email treasurer@winchesteruu.org or phone the church office at **781-729-0949**. To make a payment, mail a check to the church office at 478 Main St, Winchester 01890 or pay online at <https://www.winchesteruu.org/giving/how-to-give/>. Thank you to all for your donations this year. We’re looking forward to seeing you in person when the time is right.
- **Outdoor Open Office Hours:** As of September 3rd, Rev. Heather is offering outdoor open office hours from noon until 2pm (weather permitting) in the Meditation Garden on Thursdays. Come to say hello, to share something on your heart and mind or to greet other members and friends of WUS. Masks required; distance protocols will be followed. If the weather doesn’t look great, call the office first to confirm that the outdoor office is open for business – 781.729.0949. We will offer outdoor office hours until winter temperatures begin.
- **WUS Writing Group** Please feel free to come to the WUS Writing Group on every Wednesday from now until September 30th. Meetings will take place over Zoom starting at 9 AM. The exact format and focus of the group will be discussed and determined each week based on how the attendee writers wish to spend the time. No writing experience is necessary – just a desire to write. We look forward to “seeing” you! For more information and the link for the meeting contact Dan [[HERE](#)].

Whole Community Greeting and Good News Roundup Use the “chat” function to greet others in worship and, if you have especially good news, to share it! Our Chat Covenant: we only write things we would say in person in the sanctuary.

Ringing of the Bell *Today we are called back to worship by the ringing of the bells at our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania on Easter morning.*

Opening Words by Ralph Waldo Emerson Peter McEntee

Chalice Lighting by Albert Schweitzer Lee Barton
If you wish to do so, please read together the words for our chalice lighting and light a chalice at home as we light the chalice.

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

Hymn #21 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

For the Beauty the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human care, sister, brother, parent, child,
For the kinship we all share, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Source of all, to thee we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

First Reflection 4th Principle Rebecca Kelley-Morgan

*Attached to this order-of-service is a packet for young children
so they may engage in an activity concurrent with the rest of the service.
You may also find these materials here: [\[link\]](#)*

Blessing

May the light within you shine before you, every day, every day.
May the light within you shine before you guide your way, guide your way. May
the love we share surround you and chase your fears away.
May the light within you shine before you, this we pray, this we pray.

Community Joys and Sorrows Kye Flannery, Summer Minister

At this time, you may briefly share a personal joy, sorrow or concern and all are invited to bear compassionate witness. If you would like to speak, just write your name in the Chat function and you will be called on and unmuted. When you are done speaking, you are invited to light a candle at home as a sign of what you have

shared. There will then be a time to briefly write your joy or sorrow in the chat to be read aloud if you choose to not speak. We will then light one last candle for all that has been shared and all that remains unspoken within our gathered community.

Meditation

Silence

Hymn #83

Winds Be Still

Winds be still. Storm clouds pass and silence come.
Peace grace this time with harmony.
Fly, bird of hope, and shine, light of love,
And in calm let all find tranquility.

Bird fly high. Lift our gaze toward distant view.
Help us to sense life's mystery.
Fly high and far, and lead us each to see
How we move through the winds of eternity.

Light shine in. Luminate our inward view.
Help us to see with clarity.
Shine bright and true so we may join our songs
In new sounds that become full symphony.

Responsive Reading #466, "Religion" by Vincent B. Silliman

Peter McEntee and Lee Barton

Let religion be to us life and joy.

Let it be a voice of renewing challenge to the best we have and may be; let it be a call to generous action.

Let religion be to us a dissatisfaction with things that are, which bids us serve more eagerly the true and right.

Let it be the sorrow that opens for us the way of sympathy, understanding, and service to suffering humanity.

Let religion be to us the wonder and lure of that which is only partly known and understood:

An eye that glories in nature's majesty and beauty, and a heart that rejoices in deeds of kindness and of courage.

Let religion be to us security and serenity because of its truth and beauty, and because of the enduring worth and power of the loyalties which it engenders;

Let it be to us hope and purpose, and a discovering of opportunities to express our best through daily tasks:

Religion, uniting us with all that is admirable in human beings everywhere;

Holding before our eyes a prospect of the better life for humankind, which each may help to make actual.

Reflection

Religion and Evolution, Or Evolution of Religion

Peter McEntee

Offering

The offering is a spiritual practice, a public commitment to this community's values of welcome, inclusion, religious freedom and service. Thank you for generosity of substance and spirit!

You may donate through Give+ [\[link to app tutorial\]](#) PayPal [\[link\]](#) or by mailing a check to WUS, 478 Main Street, Winchester, MA 01890. Please write or type "August 23, 2020 Offering" in the memo line or comment field.

Our practice is to invite first-time worship attendees to be our guests. In lieu of a contribution, please complete the Virtual Visitor Card: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSVirVisCard> so we can stay connected beyond this Sunday.

Offertory

Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen
Peter McEntee, Baritone

Gustave Mahler

Affirmation of Shared Ministry

Lee Barton

Those who wish to do so are invited to join in reading together the community affirmation:

We gather not for ourselves alone, but to use our common power to build the Beloved Community within and beyond these walls.

We create and reaffirm this covenant this day - to make justice flourish, to practice compassion amidst difference and to embody transformative love.

Hymn #188

Come, Come, Whoever You Are

Come, come whoever you are,
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving,
Ours is no caravan of despair,
Come, yet again, come.

Benediction

by Peter McEntee

Postlude

Madrigal Divine

Nathaniel Dett

Extinguishing the Chalice

Lee Barton

Please join us in reading together the words for extinguishing our chalice:

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Stay on to join us for Coffee Hour and a Chat!

Questions for Reflection

What are the essential elements that make something a religion?
What might be adaptive about having religion vs. no religion?

Music Notes:

We are pleased to have Peter McEntee reprise a performance from two summers ago of the beautifully introspective piece "I have become lost to the world" by Mahler on a text by Friedrich Rückert. Look to the screen during the service for the English translation. The prelude and postlude are both from Dett's inspiring work *Eight Biblical Vignettes*, published in the early 1940's.

Serving Today

Pastoral Care Associate On-Call This Week: Dennis Brett - 781-729-7787
Special thanks to Tyson Kamikawa for serving as Video Coordinator

*This is a Welcoming Congregation, intentionally welcoming
and affirming of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.*

*Each worship service includes wisdom or an artistic
gift from people or communities-of-color.*

Good morning families and friends,

A note to adults. The first page is for you, so that you may have context for the service and contents of this packet. Following that there are some suggestions for other things to do/try as a family over the week as well as today, then pages for meditative coloring and a couple of activities.

Today's Worship Service asks the question of all of us, What is a church? What is a Congregation? The Covid-19 pandemic has turned everything upside down. We are now making connections through virtual church "vurch" and ask ourselves – how do we express and live out our Unitarian Universalist faith when we are apart? In this week's packet, I offer a refresher on our Unitarian Universalist 7 Principles with a coloring page for each. Please encourage your children (with some help as necessary) to send photos of them to me, to collage for publication in our next Mystic Messenger.

As we contemplate ways to engage the religious, spiritual, social and activist expressions of our faith, without meeting in person, it's a great time to contemplate your own sacred space at home and how you bring that alive with your family.

This is the last week of suggestions for sacred space ideas in your household. You have been invited to find a home for your chalice, cover it with something decorative and place your chalice/candle on it, find a chime or bell to use, a giving bowl for sharing your abundance, symbols, spiritual and religious, representations of your family and something(s) from nature.

This month's last suggested addition to your sacred space – a picture of our Congregation's building. It can be a photo of the front door we all go in, or the flags we fly along the parkway. It can be a photograph that you go to Winchester Unitarian Society to take, or one that children and other family members draw from memory. As we remain physically apart, it's important to remember the place where we first came together and the place where we will one day return to – safely – to gather once again. It's also an important part of family lore – the faith tradition of which we are a part. During the worship service this morning, feel free to invite your children to create their drawn memories of Winchester Unitarian Society.

Before This Morning's Worship: You will need your chalice, other candles for kindling the light, these pages, blank paper things to color/draw with, scissors for cutting out the principle numbers (If you wish)

Encourage your children to come closer to the screen for First Reflections and have some manipulatives and the materials attached for them to engage with during worship. If your children are very young, sensory play containers* are a great preschool activity. Kids come in and out of worship, but even if they seem inattentive or bounce in and out of the room, they are picking up messages. *Let Rebecca@winchesteruu.org know if you need ideas on how to DIY sensory play

You may wish to use the settling in and chalice lighting rituals we use in Family Worship and Religious Education sessions. They may be helpful as your family gets ready for our Zoom worship services or for any family worship you wish to create in your own sacred space. You can also begin to add your own rituals. Just lighting a candle and taking a moment of quiet. It can be a time to give space for things going on in the world, or in your home. In my home we pause before a lit candle to remember the many who have died from the Covid 19 illness. Your older kids can probably lead the familiar rituals from our time at WUS, since many of them have. These are linked below for reference.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16eq9h9bnOJAssE8U21wDcj4IjPZkyD-iW96UShQgdmw/edit?usp=sharing>

What shall we do with our summer ahead? Perhaps you would like to dedicate one day of each week to explore one of our Unitarian Universalist 7 Principles. 7 Days in a week? 7 Principles? Perfect!

SUNDAY Our 1st Principle Each person is important.

Whether it's taking time to help out a neighbor who can't leave their house, or provide greetings to those who might not otherwise receive them, or working hard to help our family members, in these days of social distancing, we purposefully seek out new ways to help our community. We do this because we believe that everyone is important. How can you help other people today and other days? Make a list and see if you can do something from it every Sunday.

MONDAY Our 2nd Principle Be just and kind in all you do.

It's important to speak up for yourself, and it can be important to speak up for other people. How can you be fair to others and to yourself? How can you be kind and honest at the same time? Before you say something, ask yourself "Is this true?" "Is it kind" "do I need to say it?"

TUESDAY Our 3rd Principle Learn Together.

How can we learn from and with each other? Can your family try a new recipe? Learn a new game? What would YOU like to learn about? Ask others what they can teach you. Offer to teach something to them. An origami fold, a magic trick, how to cartwheel. You choose.

WEDNESDAY Our 4th Principle Search for what is true.

There are many ways to search for truth. Do you ever get a feeling in the pit of your stomach? It's telling you something. Maybe what is true for you, is not true for someone else. It is true for me that macaroni and cheese is the BEST meal ever, but pizza is BORING. Is that your truth? It's okay if it isn't. What other things do you find when searching for truth?

THURSDAY Our 5TH Principle All people need a voice.

It is an important part of being a Unitarian Universalist to let people make decisions for themselves, whether it's the congregation, the country, or our own families. Try voting on something in your family, or on Zoom, or with friends. If there is a difference of opinion, can you find a in between – a compromise? Learn about all the reasons the adults in your life vote.

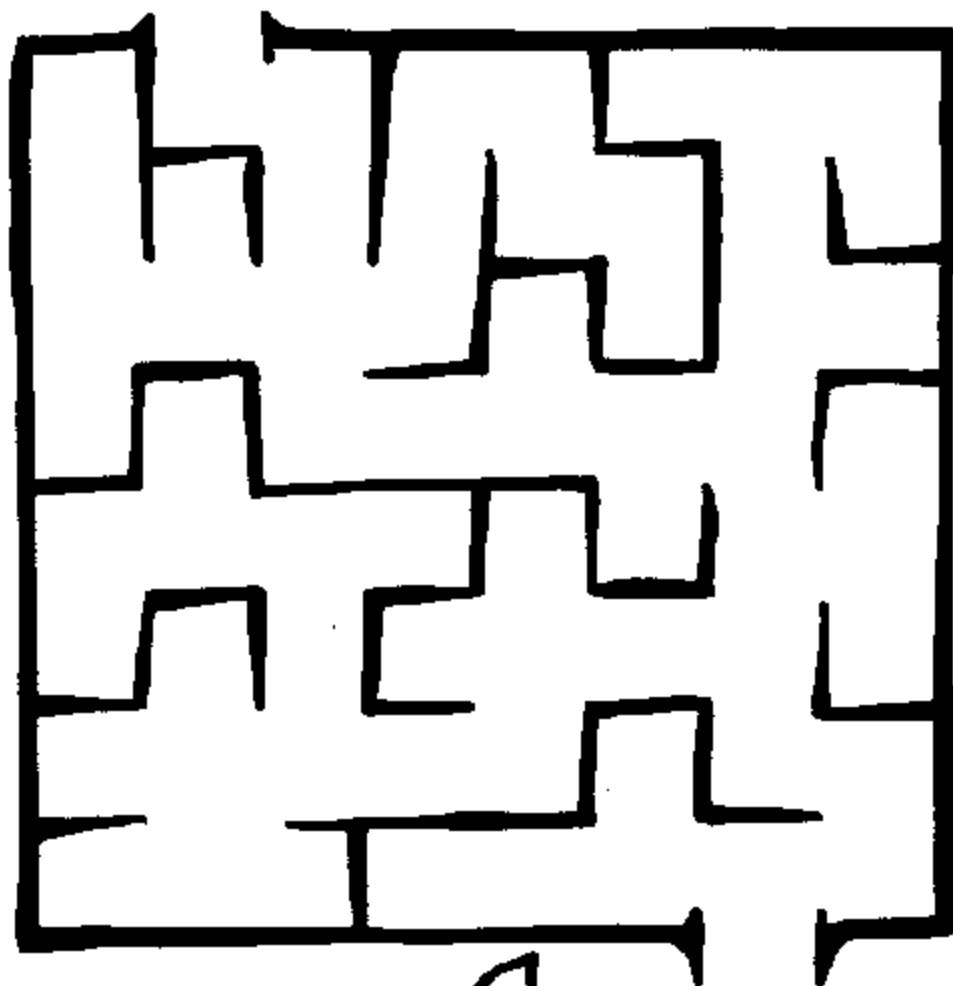
FRIDAY Our 6th Principle Build a fair and peaceful world.

The world is fair when everyone has enough – shelter, food, education, etc. It is also more peaceful when all people, everywhere, have enough. How much is enough? How many shoes can you wear at once? Think of ways that you can share what you have. Think of ways that you can bring peace to wherever you are.

SATURDAY Our 7th Principle Respect the Earth, our home.

Learn about the part of Earth we live on. Each day is a day to explore and tend our part of Earth. Look carefully at the plants, pick up trash (take bags and gloves), close your eyes and listen to the birds and other sounds, and smell the smells. What do you notice? What do you hear? What do you smell? What has changed since the last time you did this?

Start



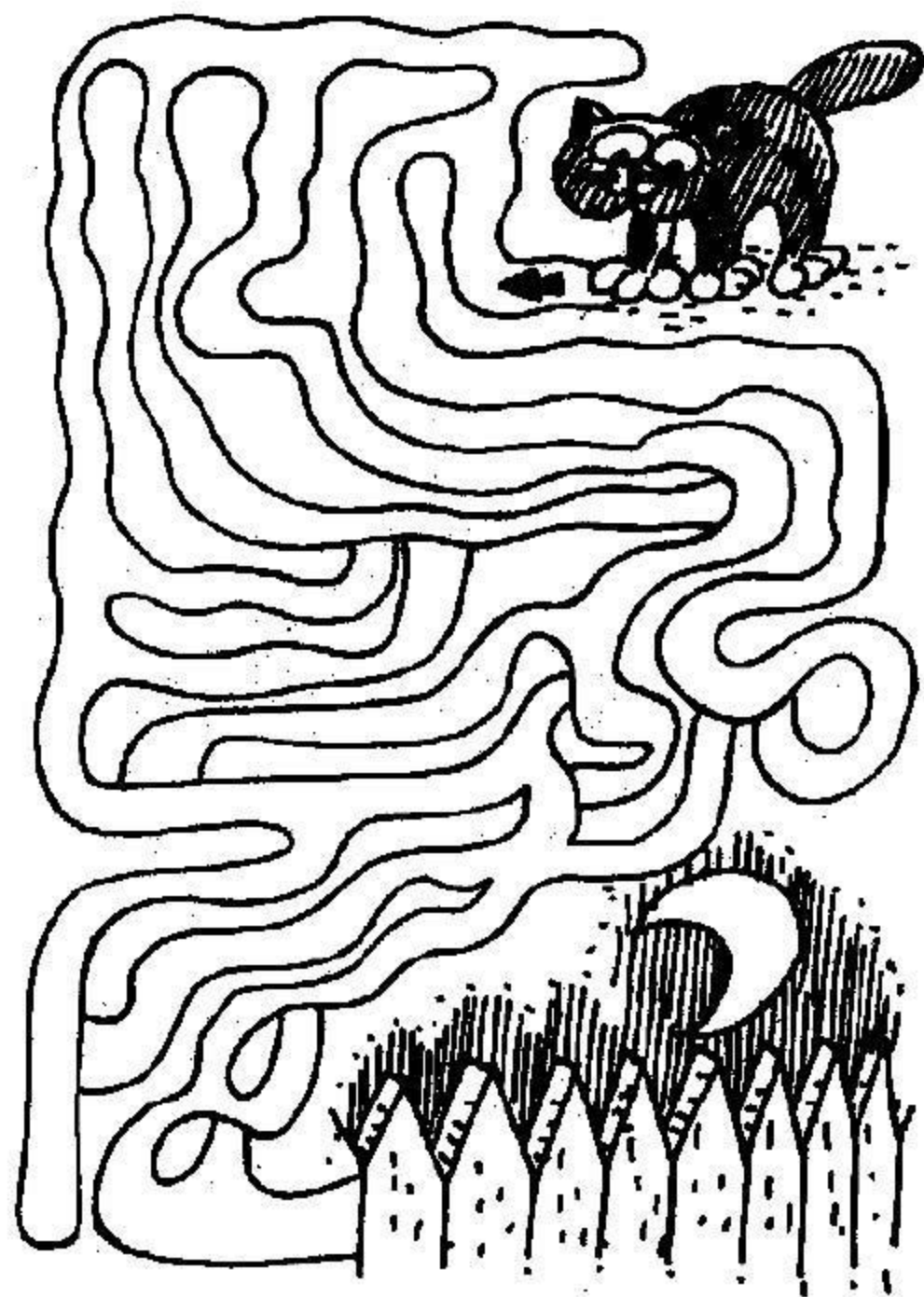
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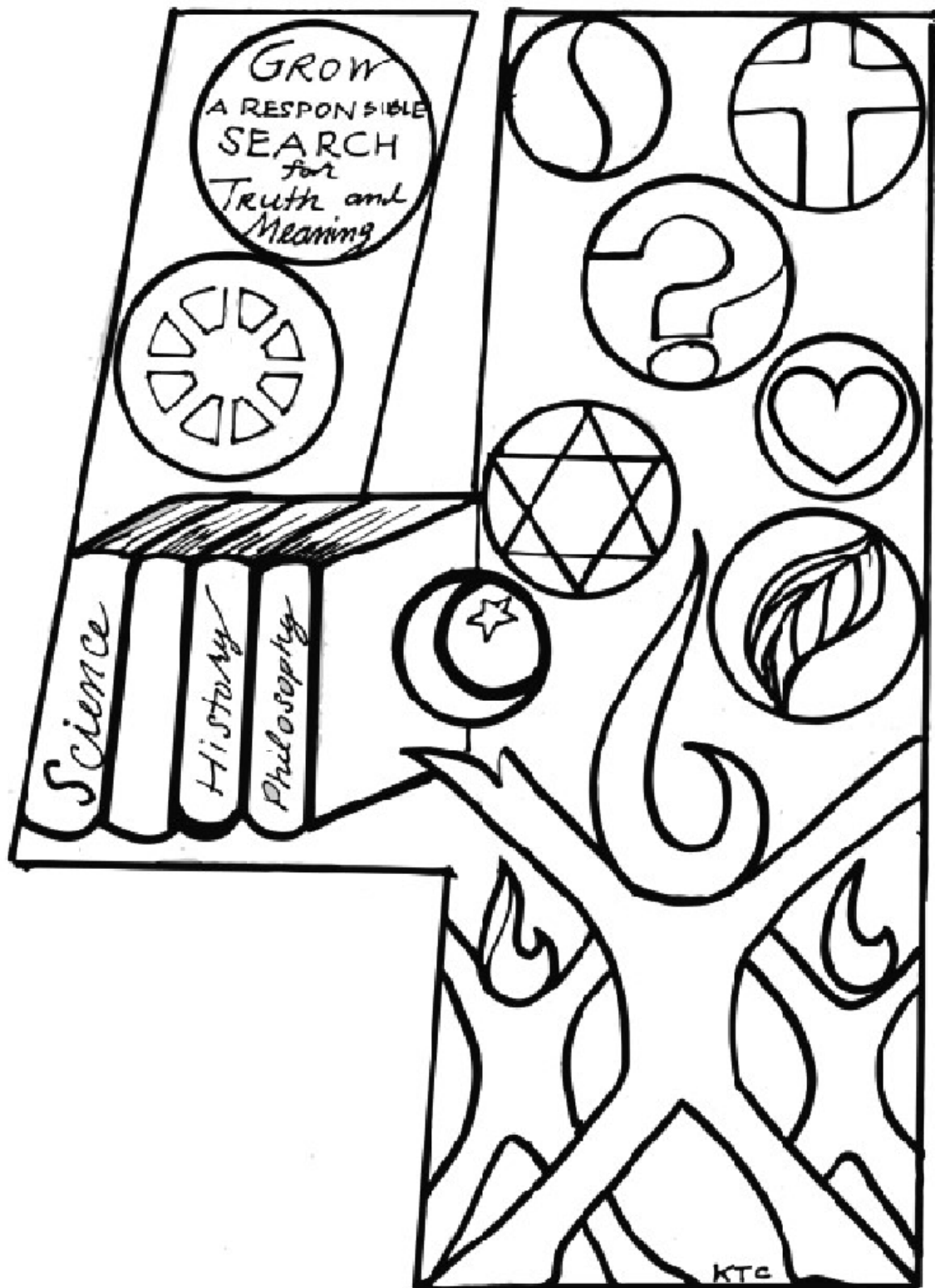


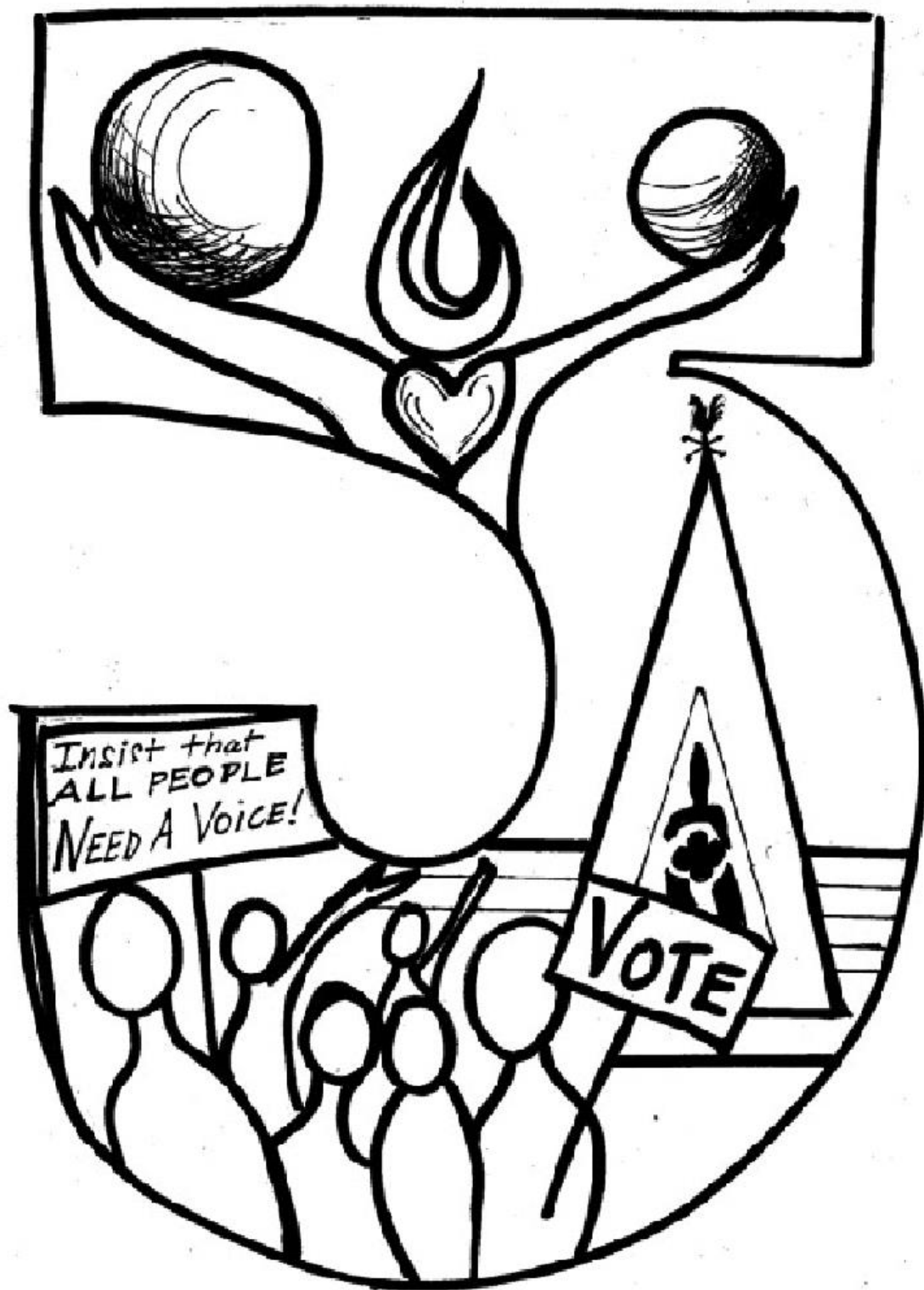




Help the cat find the fence.









Unscramble the Words

ROSFET

DAHES

SMAIANL

AVEESL

TREBCAELE

PTALN

AODHYLI

IRTENNNVOME

CROAN

HELERST

OPINNECE

RUUTEF

DRBIS

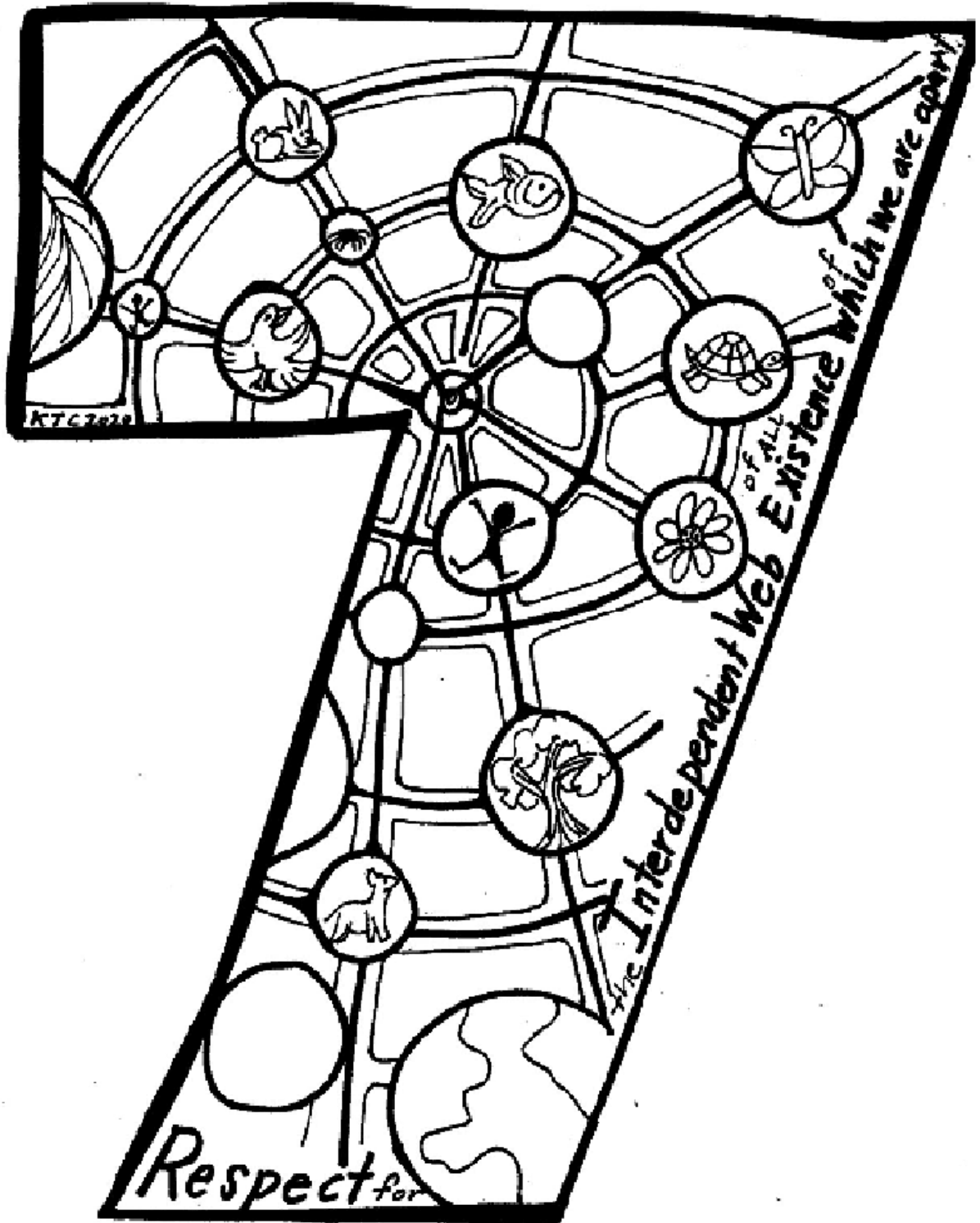
WROG

DLWFEILI

DRAYBORA

THATBIA





7 Principles Words

W	T	L	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	E	E	A
E	O	B	R	V	O	T	E	E	D	L	V	O	F
B	E	P	R	C	L	U	F	E	C	A	E	P	C
H	C	T	P	E	C	C	A	I	E	W	R	D	L
E	R	E	H	T	E	G	O	T	L	T	Y	C	E
E	A	L	L	L	C	E	E	I	E	S	O	T	L
R	C	I	R	E	C	H	A	T	E	I	N	D	T
I	T	S	L	I	F	E	T	S	N	S	E	S	C
A	O	H	A	O	V	A	T	R	L	N	C	H	E
F	H	L	P	E	E	C	D	S	A	I	E	O	P
O	I	E	E	C	F	L	G	E	R	E	E	O	S
F	N	A	O	A	R	N	P	T	C	T	P	E	E
O	L	R	V	O	D	T	S	A	N	P	F	O	R
E	T	N	W	C	I	S	A	A	N	N	S	E	E

INSIST
 EARTH
 ALL
 PEACEFUL
 VOTE
 WORLD
 ACCEPT
 TOGETHER
 RESPECT
 LIFE
 EVERYONE
 LEARN
 FAIR
 WEB
 KINDNESS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1202932/>

Can You Find all the words? What Principle Numbers do you think they belong with?

Everyone is Important, Right?

H	Y	G	L	A	U	Q	E	K	C	R	A	M	T
R	R	R	Y	E	N	Y	T	T	M	S	O	A	C
O	E	T	I	T	R	I	A	O	I	W	Q	T	A
G	H	E	A	G	T	U	I	G	I	G	I	T	R
T	Y	T	D	E	H	T	O	E	R	E	E	E	I
V	D	H	U	L	Y	T	M	T	E	R	R	R	N
M	D	I	H	H	O	R	S	H	T	T	A	D	G
O	V	G	Y	N	W	V	A	E	T	N	W	O	T
T	Q	I	O	T	V	I	E	R	W	O	R	T	H
U	L	V	U	D	N	I	K	I	Y	T	D	W	D
O	T	U	D	I	R	R	H	G	Y	M	E	N	R
O	Y	H	S	T	N	A	T	R	O	P	M	I	E
T	I	G	Y	M	N	A	E	O	T	N	E	O	H
H	D	I	I	D	I	G	N	I	T	Y	L	G	O

KIND
LOVE
IMPORTANT
TOGETHER
CARING
YOU
RIGHTS
DIGNITY
WORTH
MATTER
EQUAL

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1262384/>

social justice concepts

E	P	L	S	I	A	N	S	I	E	E	L	L	L
U	C	A	F	S	R	E	P	L	E	H	E	E	R
G	L	U	A	R	E	B	I	L	I	K	C	A	I
N	N	Q	I	U	I	G	N	E	N	I	E	R	G
G	E	E	R	T	D	D	S	C	L	N	I	N	H
L	U	N	I	T	E	D	I	A	I	D	E	I	T
I	R	A	C	I	S	M	I	E	S	A	E	N	S
S	U	I	E	P	D	G	I	P	E	A	T	G	S
T	H	R	E	Q	G	N	I	Y	L	L	U	B	R
E	D	I	S	C	R	I	M	I	N	A	T	E	N
N	E	H	T	S	U	J	N	U	E	C	S	T	I
I	U	I	F	S	E	C	A	R	I	N	G	L	R
N	I	H	J	L	O	V	E	L	L	E	C	D	G
G	V	L	T	N	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	P

LEARNING
BULLYING
RACISM
PEACE
FAIR
CARING
EQUAL
RIGHTS
LISTENING
DISCRIMINATE
UNJUST
HELPERS
LOVE
KIND
UNITED
EQUALITY

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1224874/>

When we build a fair and peaceful world, what are the words we think about?