



**G**ender: Spirit of Society  
One Person's Experience



Service Leader's Notes

J. Anthony Fitzgerald

February 13, 2005



## **Welcome**

Good Morning. Welcome to the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton. I'm Allison Calvern and chair of the Adult Programmes. I'd especially like to welcome our visitors and would invite our visitors to sign the guestbook at the entrance and to take an information packet. I invite everyone to stay after the service for conversation and, possibly, coffee.

## **Opening Poem - Rebirth**

Some years ago mother bore a boy  
a child's mind as you may know  
is always society's toy  
I tried in vain to fit their mold  
to my true self I was blind  
A few of us can be so bold  
to make gender self-define  
A struggling woman's spirit  
was desperate to be free  
I tried so not to hear it  
but I knew that she was me  
I no longer lay my head sedated  
on a pillow damp from crying  
I have been reincarnated  
without ever really trying.

Author Unknown

## **Chalice lighting**

It is our custom to begin our time together by lighting the flaming chalice, the symbol of our Unitarian faith:

(452 - Marjorie Montgomery)

Life is a gift for which we are grateful.

We gather in community to celebrate the glories and the mysteries  
of this great gift.

## **Responsive reading - 437 Let Us Worship**

## **Opening Hymn - 354 We Laugh, We Cry**

## **Story for all ages**

*“Lhamana of the A:shiwi (Ahhhhh-she-we), A Story of We’Wha”* by Tony Fitzgerald, who will read it.

## **Joys and Concerns**

As we share this time together, we also share with each other those joys or concerns which we may have brought with us today. At this time, I invite you to share what you would like to.

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Thank you for those. At this time, let us also remember those whose joys and concerns remain unknown or unspoken. Let us think especially of those who are suffering or in conflict, near and far, and those for whom life is a struggle.

## **Offeratory - 675**

The offering is a sacrament of the free church. It is supported by the voluntary generosity of all who join with us.

The offering will now be given and received in grateful appreciation of our shared hopes and values.

### *As Girls Go* **Suzanne Vega**

This is an unusual piece of music for our offertory, however, it deals with the subject matter in a rather stark way and I ask you to listen closely to the lyrics.

#### **After the offertory music, lift the offertory plates:**

These gifts are the seeds of our dreams  
that grow what we already are into what we would hope to become.  
May we be grateful for all that is given,  
May be be thankful for all that is shared.

### *The Wonder of Women* - **Joyful Noises** - **female chorus**

## **Gender: Spirit vs Society (One Person's Experience)**

Tony Fitzgerald has been a member of the Fellowship since February of 2000. Today he is here to speak of a very personal area of expertise.

## **Comments and discussion**

# Closing hymn - back cover May the Road Rise to Greet You

## Closing words: 694

May the love which overcomes all differences,  
which heals all wounds,  
which puts flight to all fears,  
which reconciles all who are separated,  
be in us and among us  
now and always.

## Announcements

Are there any announcements?

(You'll notice that people look up or otherwise let you know when they are "ready" for the next event, ready to sing, etc)

Once there are no more announcements, you can strike the brass bowl if you like, or just jump in with the chalice extinguishing.

## Chalice Extinguishing: #456

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.

*Elizabeth Selle Jones*

Go in peace.