



## UUCMC FAMILY REFLECTION

**January 2017**

### **Prophecy**

Happy New Year! I predict a bright year ahead for us here at UUCMC. Our theme this month is prophecy, to predict or forecast the future. While I am no fortune teller, I know that we are prepared to take on this new year and continue our work transforming ourselves and the world. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that each person is free to search for what is true and right in life. We may not believe that someone can predict the future, but we do know that our values and the search for truth and knowledge can create the future we dream about.

This month, we celebrate the prophetic voices of the past and present. Voices like Martin Luther King, Jr. and his heroic work made our country more fair and equal for all people. He was a prophet, because he spoke about injustice and worked to tell the truth about injustice and racism in our country. People who are deemed prophets can be quite interesting, because they sometimes challenge what we think is true. As UUs, it is our responsibility to listen, learn and decide what is true, even if it is difficult. You have the power to change the world by changing yourself. The choices and changes you make help create the future. Transforming ourselves leads to transforming the world.

Use this family reflection guide this month to explore *prophecy* as a family. It's best to do this as a part of a ritual. Rituals help us slow down, be mindful and reinforce what is important. I suggest picking one day of the week to have dinner together as a family, or maybe bedtime works best. Light a chalice, and use the suggested format below in this document or create your own. Most importantly, talk about the reflection question of the week and end with a closing.

## Opening Words

UU Theologian and Minister Rebecca Parker said that “prophetic witness is our capacity to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what we know.”

## Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice for our family.  
So that we can learn and grow together,  
make peace together,  
and show our love to each other and to the world.

~Rev. Virginia Jarocho-Ernst

## Reflection One

Prophecy is a tough topic. In our culture, we consider prophets fortune tellers. But in liberal religions like ours, prophets are not just those who predict the future but those who intentionally create the future. Who do you see as prophets in our country today? Think about those people who are making our world a more just and fair place.

## Reflection Two

Prophets are those who seek the truth and create the future. In the book *Have You Filled Your Bucket Today* by Carol McCloud, everyone in the whole world is carrying an invisible bucket. The purpose of the bucket is to fill it with good thoughts and feelings. What kind of ideas could you fill your bucket with to create a more fair and just world?

## Reflection Three

Some of the recent children’s and young adult novels have a protagonist who is a prophet, characters such as Harry Potter and Katniss Everdeen from *The Hunger Games*. They attempt to change the world after seeking the truth. Can you think of other characters who possess similar traits? Do these characters seem realistic? How?

## Reflection Four

We all have the power to act as prophets and change the future. If you could promote just one change in the world, what would it be. What issue is important to you? Why?

## Closing

By Robin F. Gray (adapted)

The chalice flame is extinguished, but not our hope for the future, our courage to seek and speak our truth, or the love we share in all the world.

## Activities

1. A new year is often a time when we make resolutions to try and improve ourselves. Instead of making an individual resolution, as a family, develop a resolution you can all work on that might make the world a better place.
2. Consider participating in an MLK Day event with your children. Use it as a time to reflect on the values in your family and to ask if you are living the values we believe in.
3. For young children, tell them the story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Complete the attached sheet for everyone in the family.



Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream....  
What is your dream?

