

I don't believe in angels – or – do I?
I cheer for the underdog –
well, not always ...

I believe in nature, in animals, in birds –
in heaven, on earth only.
Let it be. Keep it so.

I believe in the environmental “Rs” –
recycling is
a religious experience.

For some of us, worship
means *worth-ship*,
and *the coffee hour is communion*.

Some come to hone their consciences,
some to heal their wounds.
Out of many different houses ...

We endeavour to
afflict the comfortable,
and to comfort the afflicted.

We are inclusive, not exclusive –
our circle draws in all but those
who would exclude themselves.

Some of us are straight – some gay –
we welcome all –
trans, asexual too!

I believe in Love, Love is God,
God is Love,
Love is the doctrine of this church.

Some of us call it church –
I say sanctuary ...
We celebrate all the holidays, just in case.

YES, I AM A UNITARIAN!
I used to say UN-itarian,
or FUN-itarian!

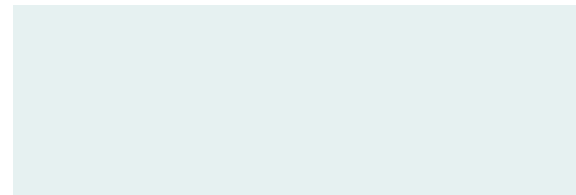
Now I say YOU-nitarian –
YOU may be
a Unitarian ...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Franci Louann is a poet, a dental hygienist, and a member of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Her poetic credo is a work-in-progress, much of it found in conversations and liturgies. Inquiries? Write to flouann@telus.net.

UNITARIAN POETRY

CUC members are invited to submit short, spiritual poems to The Canadian Unitarian newsletter via poetry@cuc.ca. See more poems at www.cuc.ca/poetry.



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A POETIC LOOK AT BEING A UNITARIAN

by Franci Louann

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NEXT PANEL ►

THIRTY-THREE TERCETS ON BEING A UNITARIAN

BY FRANCI LOUANN

AM a Unitarian.
Unitarians talk a lot.
Did I say that?

I might be a Universalist,
or a Unitarian-Universalist,
or a Universalist-Unitarian.

(This is not to be confused with
the United, the Unity,
or the Unification Churches.)

Most Canadian Unitarians belong to the CUC,
the ICUU, IARE, PCC, and some the CLF!
(Most probably listen to the CBC!)

Like the U.K. Unitarians,
we have believed in
Freedom, Reason, and Tolerance!

Like our U.S. / U-U / UUA siblings,
we accept seven principles.
(Or is it eight? Now?)

CUC	Canadian Unitarian Council
ICUU	International Council of Unitarians and Universalists
IARE	International Association for Religious Freedom
PCC	Partner Church Council
CLF	Church of the Larger Fellowship
UUA	Unitarian Universalist Association

We have six sources.
(Or is it seven? Now?)
We are a *Living Tradition*.

We *Unitarians agree to differ*.
We believe in *religion without dogma*.
We *celebrate life*.

We come together because
we are enough alike to speak with each other,
enough unlike to make it worthwhile.

We are *a mosaic*,
not a melting pot,
does that sound familiar?

We might be mystics
or humanists
or both.

Some of us are Christian, some Buddhist,
some call themselves *Jew-nitarians*,
some, *Interfaitharians*!

We might be agnostics – maybe *devout agnostics*,
who think about God a lot,
but decide they can't be sure –

probably not *casual agnostics*,
who don't know,
and don't care ...

We might be theists, atheists, or “omnitheists” –
I made that last one up, meaning –
if there is a God – s/he is the same for all folk.

We don't have all of the answers,
but we do have most of the questions.
To question is an answer.

I believe that,
as my first Unitarian brochure read,
Truth can't be pickled!

And as Shakespeare said,
This above all: to thine own self be true.
(Polonius to Laertes)

We might be inspired by Mahatma Gandhi –
and Harry Potter –
on the same page. (That has happened!)

I believe that, not by faith,
but by good works alone,
shall I be saved – if I shall be saved!

I believe in people, that people are worthwhile,
that people are basically good,
except by accident, not design.

verses
poetry
prosody
words
speak
literature
poetic