Dublin Unitarians
Freedom Reason Tolerance

Services
What happens at a Unitarian service?

Unitarians meet on Sundays and on other days to help explore their spiritual needs within a loving, tolerant, welcoming and diverse community. Just as the Unitarians have no set creed, there is no rigorous enforcement of a particular type of service. However, as in most denominations, patterns of worship develop over the years, to suit the particular needs of the congregation.

Themes and sources

The sermons’ themes vary, and like the readings, one of which is done by a congregation member, draw from philosophical, theological, biblical, literary and many other sources. As befits a denomination with no creedal test for members, congregations frequently hear the words of Hindu or Islamic scholars, and those of the luminaries of the various branches of Christianity. They are intellectually, philosophically, and emotionally challenged as they try to adhere to the church’s core values of freedom, reason and tolerance.

Baptism, Funeral, Marriage, Civil Union

Many people first visit our Unitarian church when they are invited to attend a baptism, funeral, marriage or civil union ceremony. For any of these, the parties involved have considerable freedom in deciding the format of the service, in consultation with the minister or celebrant.
**11am Sunday morning service**

The visitor to our Sunday morning service in Dublin's St. Stephen's Green encounters hymns, other musical interludes, prayer, reflections, silence, readings, a children's story, and a 20-minute sermon by the minister. Sometimes the service may be delivered by a member of the congregation or a visiting preacher. The latter may be a minister of religion or a member of civil society whose views are of interest to the congregation. On a month with five Sundays, there is a communion service following the main service on the fifth Sunday. There is no obligation to attend this or to receive communion.

**Visitors are always welcome**

The Sunday service, which lasts about an hour, is followed by tea and coffee where, it is often said, the real debates begin as sermons, readings and the music are analysed. The congregation's many other social activities (Justice and Peace Desk, and the Book, Film and Walking clubs among them) are also discussed. Visitors are most welcome to join these groups.

**Meditation**

The public is also invited to attend regular Wednesday lunchtime meditation services in the church.
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