

## **Soul Matters Theme: The Gift of Liberating Love**

*The moment we choose to love we begin to move against domination, against oppression. The moment we choose to love we begin to move towards freedom, to act in ways that liberate ourselves and others. That action is the testimony of love as the practice of freedom.*

— bell hooks (1952-2021, American author, theorist, educator, and social critic)

## **Order of Service January 14, 2024: A Love Ethic**

Officiating: Rev. Diana McLean

Worship Associate: Diane Dobitz

Pianist: Shay MacKay

Storyteller: Director of Children's Faith Development Macey Forsyth (by video)

Greeters:

Worship Tech: Kat Clements

Sound Assistant:

Hearing Assist: Dennis Cramblit

Nursery: Staff member Linden Anthony and volunteer DeeAnn Nelson

Children's Chapel: Deb Fitzloff and Danielle Stedman

Hospitality: Nancy and Dennis Cramblit

**Opening Slideshow:** To "In the Name of Love" by Brother Sun

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D57BijlcFp4>

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Bell Chime**

### **Chalice Lighting**

If you are viewing through Zoom, please type into the Chat that a chalice is lit on [your street]:

*We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth, and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.*

### **Call to Worship - Rev. Diana**

"As We Gather Together This Morning" by Bets Weinecke

**Opening Hymn #389, "Gathered Here"** (words and music by Phillip A. Porter)

## **Story (video)**

*We March*, written and illustrated by Shane W. Evans

## **Singing the Children Out**

### **Joys and Sorrows**

**Singing Prayer:** To the tune of **#1002** (teal hymnal) by Mimi Borstein.

## **Offertory**

**Reading: from “All the Great Religions of the World”** by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Hymn #199 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”** (Words and music by Thomas A. Dorsey; this was a favorite hymn of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

**Sermon** “A Love Ethic”

**Closing Hymn #169 “We Shall Overcome”** (Words and music African American spiritual, adapted by William Farley Smith)

## **Chalice Extinguishing**

*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)*

## **Benediction**

**Singing Benediction:** “Longtime Sun” the final three minutes of “A Very Cellular Song” written by Mike Heron and performed by The Incredible String Band on their 1968 album *The Hangman’s Beautiful Daughter*.

*May the longtime sun shine upon you*

*All love surround you*

*And the pure pure light that’s within you*

*Guide your way home.*

**Zoom Break Out Rooms:** A time for gathering to meet, talk, and connect. Please accept the invitation to join a room.

**In-person Hospitality** in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level.