

Soul Matters Theme: The Gift of Interdependence

“Poetry is the way we help give name to the nameless so it can be thought. The farthest horizons of our hopes and fears are cobbled by our poems, carved from the rock experiences of our daily lives.”

~Audre Lorde (black lesbian writer and professor, 1934-1992)

Order of Service April 14, 2024

Poetry as Spiritual Practice

Officiating: Rev. Diana McLean

Worship Associate: Sue Chambers

Pianist: Shay MacKay

Storyteller: Director of Children’s Faith Development Macey Forsyth

Prelude/Opening Slideshow

Welcome and Announcements

Singing Bowl

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

“We Summon Ourselves” by Gordon B. McKeeman

Opening Hymn #188, “Come, Come, Whoever You Are” (words adapted from Rumi, music by Lynn Ungar)

Story

Change Sings, written by Amanda Gorman, illustrated by Loren Long

Singing the Children Out

Joys and Sorrows

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Meditation

Singing Prayer: To the tune of **#1002** (words and music by Mimi Borstein-Doble)

Offertory

Reflection "Poetry As Spiritual Practice"

Poetry About Spiritual Practices

"Praying" by Mary Oliver

"Fully Alive" by Dawna Markova

"You Reading This, Be Ready" by William Stafford

Poems of Comfort

"For Loneliness" by John O'Donohue

"Mother" by Ted Kooser

"Blessing for the Brokenhearted" by Jan Richardson

Poems of Connection to the Sacred

"The Heavens" by Hank Hudepohl

"god is no noun" by Glen Thomas Rideout

"One Morning" by Jean Connor

Poems of Social Justice

"To Be of Use" by Marge Piercy

"Keeping Quiet" by Pablo Neruda

"Imagine" by Lynn Ungar

Hymn #288, "All Are Architects" (words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, music by Thomas Benjamin)

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 participants: Please feel free to stay online for a time of gathering to meet, talk, and connect. (If the group online is large enough, we will invite you to join breakout rooms for small group connection.)

In-person participants: Please stay for refreshments and conversation in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level following the worship service.