

Soul Matters Monthly Theme: What does it mean to be a Community on the Path of Love?

Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within. I use the word ‘love’ here not merely in the personal sense but as a state of being, or a state of grace—not in the infantile American sense of being made happy but in the tough and universal sense of quest and daring and growth.

--James Baldwin (1924-1987), a Black American essayist, novelist, playwright, and poet

Order of Service for February 26, 2023: Principles and Sources and Values and Words: The Article II Study Commission Report

Rev. Rita Capezzi, Preaching

Diane Dobitz, Worship Associate

Director of Children’s Faith Development Macey Forsyth, Storyteller

Kat Clements, Tech Squad

Keri Johnson and Ireland Olson, Nursery

Melissa Kjarum, Children’s Chapel

Cathi Fouchi, Youth Group

Nancy Blethen and Sue Wiltgen, Hospitality

Announcements Slideshow To “Little Love” (2019) word and music by Gabriel Kahane (b. 1981), a White American composer and singer-songwriter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjSaErHKV7M>

Greetings from the Whole Congregation (everyone on Zoom is invited to unmute)

Let’s all make a joyful noise!

Welcome and Announcements

Bell Chime

Chalice Lighting: For those attending by 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.

Hymn: “There is a Love Holding Me” with music from Elizabeth Norton and words by Rebecca Ann Parker, performed by Rev. Christopher Lamb of the Foothills Unitarian Church (CO)

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

Reading: Excerpt from “Our Approach” in the *Article II Study Commission Report, 2021-2023*

<https://www.uua.org/files/2023-02/article-II-study-report-2021-23.pdf>

Story: “The Perfect Heart” by Paulo Coelho (b. 1947), a Brazilian lyricist and novelist of Portuguese descent <https://paulocoelhoblog.com/2010/10/04/readers-story-the-perfect-heart/>

Sending the Young Ones to Faith Development Activities

Prayer/Meditation: “Open Our Hearts with Love” by the Rev. Naomi King, and ordained Unitarian

Universalist minister and embodied practices teacher

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/184319.shtml>

Sorrows and Joys

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

Comfort me, share my joy/ Comfort me, Oh my soul. (2x)

Giving/Offertory: “The Fire of Commitment” with music, words, and performance by Jason Shelton

(#1028 in the teal hymnal) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPFjgJptaMk>

Sermon

Hymn: “We Shall Be Known” music and words by MaMuse and performed by the “How We Thrive”

Virtual Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ft2reFzQtOI>

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.

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 long time sun shine upon you/All love surround you

And the pure, pure light that’s within you/ Guide your way home (2x)

In-person: Hospitality in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level. Join us at noon for a conversation with Minnesota State Representatives Jeff Brand and Luke Frederick, hosted by Moms Demand Action (for gun safety).

On Zoom: A time to meet, talk, and connect.