

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

Know that love is a vulnerability but not a weakness. Love is the volunteer in you that raises its hand and steps forward without needing to be rewarded. Love is a currency that functions in reverse, because the only way to be wealthy with it is to give more of it away.

--Shane Koyczan (b. 1976), an Indigenous-French Canadian spoken word poet, writer, and member of the group Tons of Fun University.

Order of Service for February 12, 2023: Sacrificial Love

Rev. Rita Capezzi, Preaching
Rebecca Larrabee, Worship Associate
Nancy Cramblit, Musician
Linda Ganske and Kathryn Vonderharr, Greeters
Andy Roberts and Kat Clements, Tech Squad
Dennis Cramblit, Hearing Assist
Keri Johnson and Ireland Olson, Nursery
Deb Fitzloff, Children's Chapel
Barb Franchino, Youth Group
Diane Dobitz, Hospitality

Announcements Slideshow To "Still I Will Love" (2018) by ShainaTaub (b. 1996), a White American singer, composer and musician https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDnbAJ_ljL4

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: #95 "Here is More Love Somewhere" (gray hymnal), words and music an African American song <https://farfringe.com/stlt95-there-is-more-love-somewhere/>

Reading: "Small Kindnesses" by Danusha Laméris (b. 1971), a poet, teacher, and essayist of Dutch and Caribbean descent. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/28/learning/small-kindnesses-poem.html>

Story: *It's Mine* (1985) written and illustrated by Leo Lionni (1910-1999), an Italian-American writer and illustrator of children's books. Read on video by our Director of Children's Faith Development, Macey Forsyth. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdgET7a0sik>

Sending the Young Ones to Faith Development Activities

Prayer/Meditation: “A Blessing for Presence” from *Eternal Echoes* (1998) by John O’Donohue (1956-2008), an Irish poet, author, priest, and Hegelian philosopher.

https://www.mindfulpath.com.au/application/files/4215/6584/1234/A_Blessing_for_Presence_by_John_O.pdf

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: “Au Claire” by Lorie Line

Sermon

Reflecting

Hymn: #1058 “Be Ours a Religion” (teal hymnal), words from Theodore Parker and music from Thomas Benjamin <https://farfringe.com/stj1058-be-ours-a-religion/>

Hymn: #1040 “Hush” (teal hymnal), words and music an African American slavery-era spiritual, arranged by Jason Shelton <https://farfringe.com/stj1040-hush/>

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, as well as a session with Melinda Kjarum for the Wellspring Cloth Project.

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