

## **Soul Matters Theme: The Gift of Transformation**

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

—Anne Bradstreet, poet, 1612-1672

## **Order of Service March 17, 2024**

### **The Earth Awakes Again**

Officiating: Rev. Diana McLean

Worship Associate: Linda Ganske

Pianist: Shay MacKay

Storyteller: Director of Children's Faith Development Macey Forsyth

**Opening Slideshow:** To "Here Comes the Sun" by the Beatles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKdl-GCsNJ0>

### **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**

"Our Souls Speak Spring" by Evin Carville Ziemer

**Opening Hymn #73, "Chant for the Seasons" (Spring verse only)** (words by Mark Belletini, music Czech folk song)

### **Story**

*Wake Up, Woodlands*, written by Karen Jameson, illustrated by Marc Boutavant

## **Singing the Children Out**

### **Joys and Sorrows**

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

### **Offertory**

**Reading #1: “Winter Meditation”** by Rev. Tess Baumberger

**Reading #2: “Blue Sky Returning”** by Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich

**Hymn #377 “In Greening Lands Begins the Song”** (tune from Genevan Psalter, words anonymous)

**Sermon** “The Earth Awakes Again”

**Hymn #61, “Lo, the Earth Awakes Again”** (words by Samuel Longfellow, music by Lyra Davidica)

### **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 a luncheon and conversation in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level following the worship service.