

**Soul Matters Theme:** The Gift of Welcome

**"We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community."**

—Dorothy Day (1897 - 1980), Catholic social activist

**Order of Service September 10, 2023: Welcome Home (Ingathering Service)**

Officiating: Rev. Diana McLean

Worship Associate: Diane Dobitz

Storyteller: Director of Children's Faith Development Macey Forsyth

Pianist: Shay MacKay

Greeters:

Tech Squad:

Hearing Assist:

Nursery:

Hospitality:

**Opening Slideshow:** To "Swimming to the Other Side" (2007) by Emma's Revolution, written by Pat Humphries and Sandy O

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syicfyH2O6U>

**Congregational Greeting Welcome**

**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.*

**Opening Hymn:** #188 "Come, Come, Whoever You Are" (gray hymnal), words adapted from Rumi, music by Lynn Adair Ungar

<https://farfringe.com/2017/04/09/stt188-come-come-whomever-you-are/>

**Blessing of the Backpacks (Macey)**

**Hymn: #1010** "We Give Thanks" (teal hymnal), words and music by Wendy Luella Perkins

<https://farfringe.com/2017/11/28/stj1010-we-give-thanks/>

**Sorrows and Joys**

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

**Offertory:** [info from Shay](#)

**Homily**

**Merging of the Water Ritual**

**Hymn: #318** “We Would Be One” (gray hymnal) words by Samuel Anthony Wright; music by Jean Sibelius

<https://farfringe.com/2017/08/14/stlt318-we-would-be-one/>

**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.*

**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*. Accompanied by Rev. Shay MacKay.

*May the longtime sun shine upon you*

*All love surround you*

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

*Guide your way home.*

**Postlude:** [info from Shay](#)

**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.