

Soul Matters Theme: The Gift of Transformation

“People rise out of the ashes because, at some point, they are invested with a belief in the possibility of triumph over seemingly impossible odds.”

~Robert Downey, Jr. (American actor, b. 1965)

Order of Service March 31, 2024 (Easter Sunday)

We, Too, Rise Again

Officiating: Rev. Diana McLean

Worship Associate: Diane Dobitz

Pianist: Shay MacKay

Storyteller: Director of Children’s Faith Development Macey Forsyth

Opening Slideshow: To “We Rise” by Batya Levine

<https://youtu.be/6tkmkwufRVw?si=bCp11ZdroOhCADqf>

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

“Call to Worship on Easter” by Elizabeth M. Strong

Opening Hymn #1000, “Morning Has Come” (words and music by Jason Shelton)

Story

Looking for Easter, written by Dori Chacones, illustrated by Margie Moore

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

Reading: The Gospel of Luke, 24:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

Hymn #266 “Now the Green Blade Riseth” (words by John MacLeod Campbell Crum, music is a medieval French carol; harmony by Marcel Dupré)

Sermon “We, Too, Rise Again”

Hymn #269, “Lo, the Day of Days is Here” (words by Frederick Hosmer, music by Robert Williams)

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.