

Order of Service September 8, 2024

Why We Gather

Officiating: Rev. Diana McLean and Director of Children's Faith Development Macey Forsyth

Choir Director: Mark Brekke

Pianist: Nancy Cramblit

Prelude/Opening Slideshow

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], and join in saying these words:

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

"Learning to Love This World" by Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Opening Hymn #361, "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"

Words and music: Louise Ruspini

Arr. by Betty Wylder

Blessing of the Backpacks

Hymn #1010, "We Give Thanks"

Words and music © The Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins

Joys and Sorrows

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Meditation

Singing Prayer: To the tune of #1002

Words and music: Mimi Bornstein-Doble (adapted)

Offertory

Homily: Why We Gather

Water Ritual

Choir Anthem

“Rejuvenation”

by Tobin Stokes

copyright Cypress Choral Music – 2010

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.