

Soul Matters Theme: The Gift of Welcome

“We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.”

—Maya Angelou (1928-2014), American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist

Order of Service September 17, 2023: Widening the Circle

Officiating: Rev. Diana McLean

Worship Associate: Tony Filipovitch

Storyteller: Director of Children’s Faith Development Macey Forsyth

Pianist: Shay MacKay

Greeters:

Tech Squad:

Hearing Assist:

Nursery:

Hospitality:

Opening Slideshow: To “Draw the Circle Wide” by Mark Miller (as performed at St. Paul Bring the Sing in May 21, 2016)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sifnfvkbt0>

Welcome and Announcements

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.

Call to Worship - Rev. Diana

Opening Hymn: #361 “Enter, Rejoice, and Come In” (gray hymnal), words and music by Louise Ruspini

Story (Macey)

Julia's House for Lost Creatures, written and illustrated by Ben Hatke

Singing the Children Out

Joys and Sorrows

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

Offertory: [info from Shay](#)

Reading “Prayer for This Church” by Rev. Nancy Shaffer

Sermon “Widening the Circle”

Hymn: #1008 “When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place” (teal hymnal) words and music by Joyce Poley

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*. 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.