

Order of Service June 29, 2025

The Show Must Go On

Minister: Seth Anderson-Matz

Worship Associate: Linda Ganske

Children's Faith Development Director: Macey Forsyth

Pianist: Nancy Cramblit

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements – Linda

Singing Bowl – Linda

Chalice Lighting – Linda reads, Seth lights

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 – “Perhaps the World Ends Here” by Joy Harjo – Seth

Today's call to worship is a poem by Joy Harjo—a queer native poet of the Mvskoke/Creek Nation—entitled “Perhaps the World Ends Here.”

The world begins at a kitchen table. No matter what, we must eat to live.

The gifts of earth are brought and prepared, set on the table. So it has been since creation, and it will go on.

We chase chickens or dogs away from it. Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.

It is here that children are given instructions on what it means to be human. We make men at it, we make women.

At this table we gossip, recall enemies and the ghosts of lovers.

Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children. They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together once again at the table.

This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.

Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror. A place to celebrate the terrible victory.

We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here.

At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks.

Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.

Come, let us worship together.

Hymn – STLT #346, “Come, Sing a Song With Me”

Story for All Ages – *One Day in June: A Story Inspired by the Life and Activism of Marsha P. Johnson* by Tourmaline — Macey

Singing the Children Out

Joys and Sorrows

Pastoral Prayer

We lift up these prayers as an act of love and solidarity. May we all be held in the tender embrace of beloved community, and may our hearts be well tended by the love and care we share.

Amen.

Silent Meditation

Singing Prayer

Offertory – Linda

Reading: Excerpt from “September 1, 1939” by W. H. Auden – Seth

From a poem by the great gay poet W. H. Auden, titled for the night it was written—September 1, 1939—the night in which Nazi Germany invaded Poland, thus beginning World War II.

*All I have is a voice
To undo the folded lie
[...]
the lie of Authority
Whose buildings grope the sky:
There is no such thing as the State
And no one exists alone;
Hunger allows no choice
To the citizen or the police;
We must love one another or die.*

*Defenceless under the night
Our world in stupor lies;
Yet, dotted everywhere,
Ironic points of light
Flash out wherever the Just
Exchange their messages:
May I, composed like them
Of Eros and of dust,
Beleaguered by the same
Negation and despair,
Show an affirming flame.*

Sermon: The Show Must Go On — Seth

Audio Divina – “The Show Must Go On” by Queen ([recording](#) – play audio only, show slides with [lyrics](#)) — Seth will introduce/facilitate

Chalice Extinguishing — Linda reads, Seth extinguishes

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 – Seth

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 in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level following the worship service.