

Soul Matters Monthly Theme: Nurturing Gratitude

“Thankfulness loosens the grip of the consumer society by contradicting its—hidden but pervasive message: that we are insufficient and inadequate. The forces of corporate capitalism continually tell us that we are needy—we need more stuff, more money, more approval, more comfort, more entertainment. The dissatisfaction it breeds is profound. It infects people with a compulsion to acquire that delivers them into the cruel bondage of debt. So, gratitude is liberating. It builds a sense of sufficiency that is quite subversive to the consumer economy.”-Joanna Macy

Order of Service for November 2nd, 2025: Love, Gratitude, and Reciprocity: On the Value of Gift Economies

Worship Leader & Storyteller: Director of Lifespan Faith Formation, Macey Forsyth

Worship Associate: Molly Reinemann

Pianist: Nancy Cramblit

Sound Booth: Dan Possin

Childcare Attendant: Linden Anthony

Congregational Greeting

Bell Chime

Welcome and Announcements

Chalice Lighting: For those attending by 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.

Hymn: #19: “The Sun that Shines” (Gray Hymnal), words by Dimitri S. Bortniansky and John Andrew Storey, Music by David Dawson

Story: *Swimmy*, by Leo Lionni

Meditation: Lovingkindness Meditation by Joanna Macy

Poem: “Praise the Rain” by Joy Harjo

Sorrows and Joys

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

Comfort me, share my joy/ Comfort me, Oh my soul. (2x)

Offertory

Reading: Excerpt from *The Serviceberry* written by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Homily and Interactive Element

Hymn: #175: “We Celebrate the Web of Life” (Gray Hymnal), words by Alicia S. Carpenter, music by Melchior Vulpius

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.

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 long time sun shine upon you/All love surround you
And the pure, pure light that’s within you/ Guide your way home (2x)*