

## Soul Matters Monthly Theme: Choosing Hope

**“What if this darkness is not the darkness of the tomb, but the darkness of the *womb*?  
What if our America is not dead but a country still waiting to be born?” - Valerie Kaur**

**Order of Service for December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Ingredients for Hopeful Communities

### 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: #346:** “Come Sing a Song with Me” (Gray Hymnal), words and music by Carolyn McDade

**Story:** *Little Mole Finds Hope*, written by Glenys Nellist, illustrated by Sally Garland

**Hymn #95:** “There is More Love Somewhere” (Gray Hymnal), African American hymn

**Poem:** “Sweet Darkness” by David Whyte

**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** from Valerie Kaur

**Homily and Interactive Element**

**Story:** *I Am We: A Book of Community*, written by Susan Verde, art by Peter H. Reynolds

**Hymn: #168:** “One More Step” (Gray Hymnal), words and music by Joyce Poley, harmony by Grace Lewis-McLaren

**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)*