

Order of Service: January 18, 2026

Title: The Neuroscience of Compassion

Speaker: Sarah Sifers

Worship Leader: Diane Dobitz

Storyteller: Director of Lifespan Faith Formation, Macey Forsyth

Choir Director: Joci Follmuth

Pianist: Jo Breckenridge

Sound Booth: Dan Possin

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

Singing Bowl

Chalice Lighting:

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn: #318 ~ We Would Be One (Gray Hymnal)

Words: Samuel Anthony Wright Music: Jean Sibelius

Story for All Ages: “ A Little Spot of Empathy”

Written & Illustrated by Diane Alber

Singing the Children Out (music inside back cover of gray hymnal)

May peace surround you

May love surround you

As you go, as you go

On your way

Joys and Sorrows

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Meditation

Singing Meditation: To the tune of hymn #1002

Comfort me, Share my joy

Comfort me, O my soul (repeat both lines once)

Reading: from Infectious Generosity by Chris Anderson

Introduction to the Offering

Offertory

Sermon: *The Neuroscience of Compassion, Sarah Sifers*

Choir Anthem: “I Choose Love”

Lyrics by Lindy Thompson and Composed by Mark A. Miller

Closing Hymn: #170 ~ We Are a Gentle, Angry People (Gray Hymnal)

Words & Music: Holly Near

Extinguishing the Chalice [in unison] *Worship Leader*

*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: (optional) “May the Longtime Sun” (sing through twice)

*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