

Soul Matters Monthly Theme: Embracing Possibility

“Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing.” -Frederick Buechner

Order of Service April 5th, 2026: Ostara and Easter as Ongoing Emergence

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.

Poem: “Hope Always Comes Easier” by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Hymn #38: “Morning has Broken” (Gray Hymnal), words by Eleanor Farjeon, music: a Gaelic melody, harmony by David Evans

Activity

Story: *Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring*, by Kenard Pak

Reading: “Living in a Laboring World” by Rev. Cameron Trimble

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

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

Homily and Meditation

Poem: “Spring” by Mary Oliver

Prayer: “Bring Us Close to the Earth” by Lyn Cox

Hymn #404: “What Gift Can We Bring?” (Gray Hymnal), words and music by Jane Marschall

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)*