

MUSIC AND THOUGHTS FOR GATHERING

*My soul enlarges the Being of my being
and my spirit rejoices in my source and sustainer.*
- Mary of Nazareth, Luke 1:46-47

PRELUDE

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GREETINGS

SOUNDING OF TEMPLE BOWL

INVOCATION (insert - responsive)
from the *Covenant of the UU Congregations*

*** HYMN #64**
A Prayer in Spring

*** CHALICE LIGHTING AND COVENANT**

Love is the spirit of this church and service its law.
This is our great covenant – to dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

ANTHEM

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A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Are Forests or Orchards Better?

SINGING THE CHILDREN FORTH

Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the spirit of love surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

WORDS FOR MEDITATION (insert)

Before There Was a Trace by Bibi Hayati (Persia, c. 1850)

QUIET MOMENT FOR MEDITATION

SHARING JOYS, SORROWS, AND CONCERNS

OFFERTORY

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MEMBERING AND REMEMBERING

***HYMN #21**

For the Beauty of the Earth

READING (insert)
from *Luke 4 & 9*

SERMON

BORROWED AND LENT:
Of Spring & Seeds & Sprouts & God Most Small

*** HYMN 298**

Wake, Now, My Senses

BENEDICTION

CARRYING FORTH THE LIGHT

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth,
the warmth of love, or the fire of courage.
These we carry in our hearts and out into the world.

POSTLUDE

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INSERTS

Invocation from the *Covenant of UU Congregations*

LEADER: As our congregations covenant, may we grow in understanding of life and living through:

SOUTH: Our direct experience of the transcending mystery and wonder which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;

NORTH: Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

SOUTH: Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

NORTH: Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

SOUTH: Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;

NORTH: Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Words for Meditation Bibi Hayati (Persia, c. 1850)

Before there was a trace of this world of beings,
I carried the memory of a lock of your hair,
a stray end gathered within me, though unknown.

Inside that invisible realm,
your face like the sun longed to be seen,
until each separate object was finally flung into light.

From the moment of Time's first-drawn breath,
love resides in us,
a treasure locked into the heart's hidden vault;

before the first seed broke open the rose bed of Being,
an inner lark soared through your meadows,
heading toward Home.

What can I do but thank you, one hundred times?
your face illumines the shrine of Hayati's eyes,
constantly present and lovely.

READING from *Luke 4 & 9*

After Jesus was baptized, he was led by the holy spirit into the wilderness where for forty days he was tested by the tempter – and when every test was finished, Jesus was filled with the holy spirit and he returned to Galilee and began to teach the good news of liberation from suffering and the nearness of the realm of heaven
And there came a day when he went upon the mountain with Peter, James, and John to pray, and he was transfigured before them, his face shining like the sun and his clothes dazzling white, and his companions saw his glory.