

THOUGHTS FOR GATHERING (insert)

PRELUDE

GREETINGS & SOUNDING OF TEMPLE BOWL

OPENING (Women; Men)

The Way, adapted from the Prophet Isaiah 58, 61

From this day, from one another,
**may the holy spirit of life send us to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the prisoners,
to comfort all who mourn.**

*May we build up the ruins, raise up the devastated generations,
be the hands of a holy spirit.*

**May this be the way we choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo and break every yoke, to let the oppressed go free, to share our
bread with the hungry, to house the homeless, to cover the naked.**

*May our light break forth and our healing spring up;
may we be like a fruitful garden, a spring whose waters never fail.*

* HYMN #123

Spirit of Life

* 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

TIME FOR ALL AGES

SINGING THE CHILDREN FORTH

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

* Asterisks indicate an opportunity to stand.

MEDITATION

The Way, adapted from Buddha's Deer Park Sermon & T.N. Hanh

May all beings have peace. May all beings have caring.

May all beings have happiness.

Our suffering comes from craving. Our peace comes from not hurting.

Our love comes from helping.

Our happiness comes from appreciation of each moment.

Breathing in, I appreciate;

Breathing out, I appreciate.

Every moment, this is the way.

JOYS, SORROWS, AND CONCERNS

OFFERTORY

*HYMN #300

With Heart and Mind

READING (insert)

The Way, adapted from the Gospel of Luke 4

SERMON

COULD THE GOSPEL BE MADE BETTER?

* HYMN #298

Wake, Now, My Senses

* CLOSING

* 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

Worship Leader: Steve Benton

Music Coordinator: Jen Logan

Ministers: All of us

Speaker: Pastor Rev. Jack Donovan

Hospitality: Kevin Wambaugh

Greeters:

Thoughts for Gathering

From *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* by Unitarian minister Edmund H. Sears

But with the woes of war and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the
angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and we who fight the
wars hear not the love song which they bring. O hush the noise of battle strife,
and hear the angels sing.

From *The Second Coming* by William Butler Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world...
The best lack all conviction, while the worst Are full of passionate intensity.
Surely some revelation is at hand; Surely the Second Coming is at hand....
But now I know That twenty centuries of stony sleep
were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

From *Gnomic Verses* by William Blake

The Angel that presided o'er my birth
Said, "Little creature, formed of joy and mirth,
Go, love without the help of anything on earth." - William Blake

Reading *The Way*, adapted from the Gospel of Luke (ch. 4)

Jesus, full of the holy spirit, was led by the spirit into the wilderness where
for forty days he fasted and confronted the human temptations to seek power
over Nature, Society, and God. When he finished, he was filled with the power
of the spirit and he returned to Galilee.

He began to teach in the synagogues, as in Nazareth where he read from the
prophet Isaiah, "The Spirit of God is upon me, sending me to bring good news
to the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim release for the
captives and recovery of sight to the blind and liberty for the oppressed, to
proclaim God's year of restoration of equal rights."

Then he said "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing. So
redirect your way, for the realm of heaven is within our reach."