

Order Of Service – Dec. 6, 2020

And There Was Light

Music for Contemplation: *Canyon Chaconne*, Paul Winter; *Hymn and Anthem*, Paul Winter and the Paul Winter Consort. Photos by Margery Ganz, Mary MacNamee, Peter Ralston, Susan Jhirad and Steve Schmidt, and © Soul Matters.

Sound of the Bell

Prelude: *Sarabande* from Partita No. 2 (J.S. Bach). Ivan Ilic, piano.

Opening Words: “Commitment to Each Other” by Dorothy McRae McMahan, adapted

Welcome

Chalice Lighting: words by Andy Pakula

Covenant

Love is the heart of this church.

We commit to:

Being a diverse, welcoming community of mutual care and respect;

Supporting each other's spiritual journey and search for truth and meaning;

Promoting justice and serving the wider community.

We hold ourselves to this promise with compassion and understanding.

Hymn: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, words by Robert Robinson and Eugene B. Navias, music by John Wyeth (*Singing the Living Tradition* #126). Brendan O’Brine and Nancy Kurtz.

Come, thou fount of ev’ry blessing, tune our hearts to sing thy grace.

Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of life’s perfection fills our hearts with joy and love,
teach us ever to be faithful, may we still thy goodness prove.

Come thou fount of ev’ry vision, lift our eyes to what may come.

See the lion and the young lamb dwell together in thy home.

Hear the cries of war fall silent, feel our love glow like the sun.
When we all serve one another, then our heaven is begun.

Come thou fount of inspiration, turn our lives to higher ways.
Lift our gloom and desperation, show the promise of this day.
Help us bind ourselves in union, help our hands tell of our love.
With thine aid, O fount of justice, earth be fair as heav'n above.

Candles of Joy, Sorrow and Milestones

Meditation: "Hope Rises" by John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker

Offering: *Bird Has Flown*, composed and performed by Molly Ruggles.

Reading: "The Brave Little Parrot," an early Buddhist story

Music: [*We Will Not Stop Singing*](#), performed by First Unitarian Brooklyn Choir.
By the Chapin Sisters.

Sermon: *And There Was Light*

Hymn: *Seek Not Afar for Beauty*, words anonymous, music by Severus Gastorius (*Singing the Living Tradition* #76). Performed by Molly Ruggles and Nancy Kurtz.

Seek not afar for beauty; lo, it glows
in dew-wet grasses all about your feet,
in birds, in sunshine, childish faces sweet,
in stars and mountain summits topped with snows.

Go not abroad for happiness; behold
it is a flower blooming at your door.
Bring love and laughter home, and evermore
joy shall be yours as changing years unfold.

In wonder-workings or some bush aflame,
we look for Truth and fancy it concealed;
but in earth's common things it stands revealed,
while grass and flowers and stars spell out the name.

Closing Words: by Kathleen McTigue (*Singing the Living Tradition* #706)

Postlude: *Rondeaux* from Partita No. 2 (J.S. Bach). Ivan Ilic, piano.