

Order Of Service February 28, 2021

Evolving as a Community and Religion

Music for Contemplation: *Common Threads* and *Freedom Is a Voice* by Bobby McFerrin; *Andante* from *Double Concerto for Two Mandolins* (RV532) by Antonio Vivaldi, adapted by Yo-Yo Ma and Bobby McFerrin; and *Good-Bye* by Yo-Yo Ma and Bobby McFerrin. Photos by Steve Schmidt, Joseph Walters, Susan Jhirad and Andey Amata, and © Soul Matters.

Freedom Is a Voice lyrics:

Freedom is a voice
freedom is a song
freedom is a spirit
for the people who are strong

Freedom is a city
freedom is a land
freedom is the courage
to take another hand

Sound of the Bell

Prelude: *To a Wild Rose*, composed by Edward MacDowell, pianist Molly Ruggles

Opening Words

Welcome

Chalice Lighting: Oscar Wilde

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 #256, *Winter Night*, words and music by Shelley Jackson Denham, Alex Daum, piano and vocals

Winter night, clear and bright:
a weary world is sleeping.
And then a cry fills earth and sky:
a newborn child is weeping.
Hush-a-bye, lullaby, blessed little baby.

Drops of pain flow like rain:
tell why your tears are falling:
for humankind, so frail, unkind,
or for your own life's calling?
Hush-a-bye, lullaby, blessed little baby.

Holy Child, Every Child,
your life will have its season.
And each new day, your heart my pray
for grace, for peace, for reason.
Hush-a-bye, lullaby, blessed little baby.

Candles of Joy, Sorrow and Milestones

Prayer: Harry Meserve

Offering: *Mourning Dove*, composed and performed by Molly Ruggles.

Reading: Blaise Pascal

Sermon: *Evolving as a Community and a Religion*, Geoff Ward

Special Music: *We May Never Pass This Way Again*, composed by Jim Seals and Dash Crofts; performed by Alex Daum, vocals, and Molly Ruggles, piano, synth flute, and background vocals.

Hymn #34, *Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire*, Words by Hal Hopson; Music Traditional English melody; Nancy Kurtz, vocals, Molly Ruggles, piano

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed,
by this we worship, and are freed.

Closing Words: Matthew McConaughey

Postlude: *All the Things You Are*, Jerome Kern, composer; Oscar Hammerstein II, lyrics; Molly Ruggles, piano