

Order Of Service – March 21, 2021

God Talk

Music for Contemplation: Movements from J. S. Bach, *Unaccompanied Cello Suites: Sarabande from Suite No. 3 in C Major, Prelude and Sarabande from Suite No. 4 in E-flat Major*. Photos by Mary MacNamee, Susan Jhirad and Steve Schmidt, and © Soul Matters.

Sound of the Bell

Prelude: *Improvisation on Mother Spirit, Father Spirit (Singing the Living Tradition #8)*, Composer Norbert F. Câpek, pianist Molly Ruggles.

Opening Words: *For Longing* by John O'Donohue (adapted) from *To Bless the Space Between Us*

Welcome

Chalice Lighting: Words by Jalal al-Din Rumi from *Lifting Our Voices #11*

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: *Bring Many Names*, words by Brian Wren, music by Carlton Young (*Singing the Living Tradition, #23*). Vocalist Brendan O'Brine, pianist Molly Ruggles.

Bring many names, beautiful and good,

celebrate in parable and story,

holiness in glory, living, loving God:

hail and hosanna, bring many names.

Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
hail and hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
hail and hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of new surprises, wiser than despair:
hail and hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager still to know,
willing to be changed by what you've started,
quick to be delighted, singing as you go:
hail and hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing everlasting home:
hail and hosanna, great, living God!

Candles of Joy, Sorrow and Milestones

Meditation: *The Chambered Nautilus* by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

Testimonial: Ann Heintz

Offering: *Mourning Dove*, by Molly Ruggles

Reading: *God's Hat* by Christopher Buice

Special Music: *Psalm 23*, by Samuel Liddle, arr. Neil Jenkins. Vocalist Brendan O'Brine, pianist Molly Ruggles

Sermon: *God Talk*

Hymn: *When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place*, words and music by Joyce Poley (*Singing the Journey*, #1008). Vocalist and pianist Molly Ruggles

When our heart is in a holy place, when our heart is in a holy place,
We are blessed with love and amazing grace,
when our heart is in a holy place.

When we trust the wisdom in each of us, every color every creed and kind,
and we see our faces in each other's eyes,
then our heart is in a holy place.

When our heart is in a holy place, when our heart is in a holy place,
We are blessed with love and amazing grace,
when our heart is in a holy place.

When we tell our story from deep inside, and we listen with a loving mind,
and we hear our voices in each other's words,
then our heart is in a holy place.

When our heart is in a holy place, when our heart is in a holy place,
We are blessed with love and amazing grace,
when our heart is in a holy place.

When we share the silence of sacred space,
and the God of our heart stirs within,
and we feel the power of each other's faith,
then our heart is in a holy place. When our heart is in a holy place.

Closing Words: words by Leslie Takahashi

Postlude: *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* (*Singing the Living Tradition*, #208), African American spiritual adapted by Willam Fatley Smith. Pianist Molly Ruggles

Question for coffee-hour discussion: Do you have language for speaking of / speaking to the sacred? What specific words resonate with you or turn you off, and why?