

Order Of Service – April 25, 2021

Amma Leslie Sterling: *The Most Important Thing We Become*

Music for Contemplation: *Everlasting Longing*, Kunqu opera, arr. Sha Yuan, performed by Xuifei Yang and Sha Yuan; *Dreams of Gulangyu Island* by Ren-chang Fu, performed by Xuefei Yang, Ren-chang Fu & Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra; and *The Moon Represents My Heart* by Weng Ching-Hsi, arr. Roland Dyens, performed by Xuefei Yang (all from Xuefei Yang, *Sketches of China*, 2020). Photos by Mary MacNamee, Margery Ganz, Susan Jhirad, Andey Amata and Steve Schmidt, and © Soul Matters.

Sound of the Bell

Prelude: *It Might As Well Be Spring*. Molly Ruggles, piano. Composer Richard Rodgers, lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II.

Opening Words

Welcome

Chalice Lighting: [*Finding Light for Shabbat*](#) by Rabbi Jen Gubitz, adapted

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: *Gather Us In* by Marty Haugen; piano Molly Ruggles, vocals Leslie Sterling.

Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song

Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

Candles of Joy, Sorrow and Milestones

Meditation

Offering: *Mourning Dove*, composer and pianist Molly Ruggles

Reading: from *Connect: 12 Vital Ties That Open Your Heart, Lengthen Your Life, and Deepen Your Soul* by Edward M. Hallowell

Reflection: *The Most Important Thing We Become*

Musical Meditation: *Shower the People* by James Taylor

Reading: from *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* by Brené Brown

Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, words by Henry Van Dyke, composed by Ludwig Van Beethoven (*Singing the Living Tradition*, #29); piano Molly Ruggles, voice Leslie Sterling.

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, hail thee as the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the pain of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the joy of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and planets sing around thee, center of unbroken praise;
field and forest, vale and mountain, blossoming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest;
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest.
Ever singing march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Closing Words

Postlude: *Reckless Kitchen*, pianist and composer Molly Ruggles, accordionist Alex Cumming.