

Order Of Service – April 18, 2021

Aging and New Growth

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 Xuifei Yang, Ren-chang Fu & Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra; and *The Moon Represents My Heart* by Weng Ching-Hsi, arr. Roland Dyens, performed by Xuifei Yang (all from Xuifei 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: *Try to Remember*, music by Harry Smith, lyrics by Tom Jones; Molly Ruggles, piano.

Opening Words: *The World Once Green Again* by Parker J. Palmer from *On the Brink of Everything* (2018)

Welcome

Chalice Lighting: Dag Hammarskjöld (*Singing the Living Tradition* #455)

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: *'Tis a Gift to Be Simple*, words by Joseph Brackett, music: American Shaker tune (*Singing the Living Tradition*, #16). Nancy Kurtz, vocals; Molly Ruggles, piano.

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free,
'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

Candles of Joy, Sorrow and Milestones

Meditation: *The Cracked Water Jar*, a wisdom tale from India

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

Reading: *The Threads in My Hand* by Howard Thurman, from *Meditations of the Heart*

Hymn: *Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design*, words by Nancy C. Dorian, music by Nikolaus Herman (*Singing the Living Tradition*, #22). Carole Bundy, Nancy Kurtz, Brendan Shea, Joe Walters, vocals.

Dear weaver of our lives' design whose patterns all obey,
with skillful fingers gently guide the sturdy threads that
will survive the tangle of our days.

Take up the fabric of our lives with hands that gently hold;
bind in the ragged edge that care would sunder and that
pain would tear, and mend our raveling souls.

Let eyes that in the plainest cloth a hidden beauty see
discern in us our richest hues, show us the patterns
we may use to set our spirits free.

Sermon: *Aging and New Growth*

Hymn: *The Peace Not Past Our Understanding*, words by John Holmes, music by Alfred Morton Smith (*Singing the Living Tradition*, #164). Brendan O'Brine, piano and vocals.

The peace not past our understanding falls
like light upon the soft white tablecloth
at winter supper warm between four walls,
a thing too simple to be tried as truth.

Not scholar's calm, nor gift of church or state,
nor everlasting date of death's release;
but careless noon, the houses lighted late,
harvest and holiday: the people's peace.

Days into years, the doorways worn at sill,
years into lives, the plans for long increase
come true at last for those of God's good will:
these are the things we mean by saying, Peace.

Closing Words: *Between the Dawn and Dusk* by Carl Seaburg

Postlude: *When I'm 64*, music and lyrics by Paul McCartney. Carole Bundy, ukulele; Molly Ruggles, piano.