

CHALICE LIGHTING -- February 11th, 2001
Unitarian Universality Church of Princeton
Diversity Committee

I light the chalice to symbolize acceptance of one another
and our welcoming of diversity.

Along with the diversity of our inherited human characteristics,
we have diversity of religious belief and practice.

We have
meditators seeking inner peace,
social-activist agitators crying out for justice,
upholders of liturgical traditions,
rational-humanist cogitators,
celebrators of pagan ritual,
philosophically-committed ethicists,
and providers of humanitarian service to those in need.
And we have those persons who embody all of these at once.

We come together in community and friendship
to seek meaning in our lives.

This light is not just in the chalice,
but lights up our entire congregation.

-- Ruth Ramsey



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF SAN JOSE

Caring Community

"People seek out a place where love is the root. Contemporary society talks little about love, although continuing to hunger for it... The poet, W.H. Auden, puts the teaching this way: "We must love one another. We must love one another or die."

- Maria Harris

"All are welcome here, provided you don't close the door behind you."

- Anonymous

Preliminaries Upcoming church events; discussion guidelines; volunteers to light chalice and lead responsive reading (regular type).

Opening / Chalice Lighting
- Capital UU Congregation, Victoria, BC
ALL: What we have in common is the way we respond to the challenge of being human, religiously, socially, and spiritually. We have come up with a way to walk together in love. Our way is to do our best to love one another and not only to respect our differences, but to cherish them for the richness, diversity, and creativity they add to our lives.

Check-in Take a minute or two to share briefly the high point or the low point of your life since we last met.

Responsive Reading
- Hymnal #444
This house is for the ingathering of nature and human nature.
It is a house of friendships, a haven in trouble, an open room for the encouragement of our struggle.
It is a house of freedom, guarding the dignity and worth of every person.
It offers a platform for the free voice, for declaring, both in times of security and danger, the full and undivided conflict of opinion.
It is a house of truth-seeking, where scientists can encourage devotion to their quest, where mystics can abide in a community of searchers.
It is a house of art, adorning its celebrations with melodies and handiworks.
It is a house of prophecy, outrunning times past and present in visions of growth and progress.
This house is a cradle for our dreams, the workshop of our common endeavor.

Sitting in Silence

Discussion Please share your thoughts on the topics in the Preparation for this session.
Please be considerate by limiting your speaking times, being supportive of others' ideas, and encouraging participation by everyone.

Singing
- Hymnal #407
We're gonna sit at the welcome table.
We're gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days, hallelujah!
We're gonna sit at the welcome table, gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

All kinds of people around that table.
All kinds of people around that table one of these days, hallelujah!
All kinds of people around that table, gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

No fancy style at the welcome table.
No fancy style at the welcome table one of these days, hallelujah!
No fancy style at the welcome table, gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

Extinguishing the Chalice
- Hymnal #684
Join hands or link arms as you read the closing words together:
The blessing of truth be upon us,
The power of love direct us and sustain us,
And may the peace of this community preserve our going out and our coming in,
From this time forth, until we meet again.