

We give thanks for this day and for these people and all the people who have enriched our lives.

We give thanks for the gift of life with all of its pain and its joy, its struggles and its triumphs.

We give thanks for love, which created us, which revivifies us and links us to others in struggle and in joy.

We give thanks for eyes to see and ears to hear, the ability to feel and the imagination to see beyond the obvious.

We give thanks for the spirit of creativity that inspires and encourages, that brings novelty in the midst of familiarity and risk in the midst of comfort, that surprises in the midst of the commonplace.

We give thanks by giving to others in return for all that we have received.

We give thanks in the depths of our souls as we enter this time of silent contemplation.

-- *Paul H. L'Herrou*



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF SAN JOSE

I Never Said Thank You

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.

-- *Henry Adams*

You say grace before meals. All Right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink.

-- *G. K. Chesterton*

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live them.

-- *John F. Kennedy*

I would thank you from the bottom of my heart, but for you my heart has no bottom.

-- *Anonymous*

Preliminaries	<i>Announce upcoming church events; get a volunteer to light the chalice, and read the opening reading.</i>	Sharing/ Deep Listening	<i>Deeply listening, without response or thought of response at this time, is the gift we give and receive as we share our thoughts on the preparation for this session.</i>
Centering Practice	<i>See Leader Notes.</i>		
Opening / Chalice Lighting -- Charles A. Howe	We light this chalice to affirm that new light is ever waiting to break through to enlighten our ways; That new truth is ever waiting to break through to illumine our minds; And that new love is ever waiting to break through to warm our hearts. May we be open to this light, and to the rich possibilities that it brings us.	Discussion	<i>This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.</i>
Check-in	<i>Briefly share something that happened this week that contributes to your emotional temperature today.</i>	Singing - Hymnal #116	For all that is our life, we give our thanks and praise, For all life is a gift which we are called to use To build the common good And make our own days glad. For needs which others serve, for services we give, For work and its rewards, for hours of rest and love -- We give our praise and thanks For all that is our life. For sorrow we must bear, for failures, pains, and loss, For each new thing we learn, for fearful hours that pass, We give our praise and thanks For all that is our life. For all that is our life, we give our thanks and praise, For all life is a gift which we are called to use To build the common good And make our own days glad.
Reading -- Paul H. L'Herrou	<i>Read the prayer on the back of the order or worship, around the circle one stanza per person.</i>		
Sitting in Silence	<i>During the silence you may want to write a thank you note to someone you never got to say thank you to.</i>	Extinguishing the Chalice - Sarah York	<i>We receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity, brief moments of insight. Let us gather them up for the precious gifts that they are, and, renewed by their grace, move boldly into the unknown.</i>