

All too often, we pace the geometries of our walled gardens,

Believing we are traversing the whole of creation.

With spirits of discovery, let us uncover the mysteries nested
in our routines,

*With the eagerness of children, let us seek out the secrets
unfolding in our peripheral vision.*

Let us behold each fellow creature with reverence;

Let us greet each day with praise and thanksgiving.

For life is a gift of incomprehensible magnitude;

Our lives are voyages with unknowable destinations.

Along the way, let us meet, kiss, challenge, and support one
another,

*Let us fashion a network of mutuality and extend it into the
larger world.*

In these ways, we forge lives of goodness and beauty;

In these ways, we know the life of prayer.

-- John Millspaugh



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF SAN JOSE

Rituals of Everyday Life

Ritual is important to us as human beings. It ties us to
our traditions and our histories.

-- Miller Williams

Ritual is necessary for us to know anything.

-- Ken Kesey

I'm a big believer in the way ritual can put us in
connection with our spirituality.

-- Sue Monk Kidd

The thing most consistently on my desk as I write is a
cat - a different one at different times of the day. I
think I'm more a part of their ritual.

-- Sarah Addison Allen

British actors wear wigs a lot. I find it to be a nice
ritual at the end of the day, take the wig off, clean the
makeup off, go home, leave work behind me.

-- Megan Boone

Preliminaries *Announce upcoming church events; get a volunteer to light the chalice.*

Centering Practice *See Leader Notes.*

Opening / Chalice Lighting
-- *Kelly Weisman Asprooth-Jackson (from UU WorshipWeb)*
What is this fire? A match, a wick, a flame.
What is this place? Wood, and stone, and glass.
Yet here we have gathered in this place before this flame making each holy by our presence here, together.

Check-in *Briefly share something that happened this week that contributes to your emotional temperature today.*

Reading
-- *John Millspaugh (from UU WorshipWeb)*
Reading is on the back cover, and should be read as a responsive reading.

Sitting in Silence

Sharing/ Deep Listening *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.*

Discussion *This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.*

Singing
- *Hymnal #16 'Tis a Gift to Be Simple*
'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.

Extinguishing the Chalice
-- *Steve J. Crump (from UU WorshipWeb)*
That which is worthy of doing, create with your hands.
That which is worthy of repeating, speak with a clear voice.
That which is worthy of remembering, hold in your hearts.
And that which is worthy of living, go and live it now.