



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
SAN JOSE

## Death

I personally like the certainty of death. It is amazingly relaxing to realize that one can't do everything. If I knew I were going to live forever, I would feel obligated to fix all my imperfections. I would have to learn many more languages; I would worry about my teeth not holding out; I would have to make amends for all the mistakes I have made.

~ Esther Dyson

<b>Centering</b>	<i>See Leader Notes.</i>	<b>Discussion</b>	<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>
<b>Preliminaries</b>	<i>Get volunteer to light the chalice and 2 readers for the long poems. Announce upcoming church events.</i>		
<b>Opening / Chalice Lighting</b> ~ Marjorie Montgomery	<i>(Read aloud together)</i> Life is a gift for which we are grateful. We gather in community to Celebrate the glories and the mysteries of this great gift.	<b>Singing</b> ~ #384 <i>Singing the Living Tradition</i>	Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia
<b>Check-in</b>	<i>How goes thy spirit? What do you need to leave behind in order to be fully present here and now? 2-3 sentences</i>	<b>Closing/ Extinguishing Chalice</b> ~ Thomas Merton (adapted)	<i>Join hands or link arms as you read the closing words together.</i>  Death cannot be understood without compassion. Compassion teaches me that when my another person dies, I too die. Compassion teaches me that we are one.
<b>Reading</b>	<i>Choose two readers, one for each poem. Read each poem through pausing between poems. Each person can follow along on their copy.</i>		
<b>Sitting in Silence</b>			
<b>Sharing/Deep Listening</b>	<i>Speak the thoughts and feelings that arose as you did the preparation for this session. Sharing should be about five minute per person.</i>  <i>Deeply listening, without response or thought of response at this time, is the gift we give and receive as we share our thoughts.</i>		