

## Opening Prayer and Meditation from Jan 16, 2022

While we are happily uncomfortable with rigid statements of belief, we acknowledge that in times of shift, it's helpful to pause in recognition of our common understandings. We stand in this moment, seeking to affirm and celebrate:

... that our lives are continually evolving in a web of relationships: with one another and with other forms of life. We affirm our calling to live in community, respecting all human beings, all life forms, our planet and universe.

We affirm that for many of us, there is a presentness in the midst of our lives, sensed as both within and beyond ourselves, which can transform our experiences of this earth and each other. Various concepts, words, and ideas have been used to describe this presentness: 'God', 'sacred', 'love', 'Spirit of Life'.

We affirm that we honor the one called Jesus, a first century Galilean Jewish sage and wisdom teacher. We share his vision of integrity, justice, and inclusiveness. His practice of open table fellowship continues to shape our own practices.

We affirm that there are many paths to the sacred. We honor the integrity and meaning of religious traditions: our own tradition and the traditions of others. We acknowledge that a transformative path of inclusion and integrity involves living responsibly and compassionately.

We affirm that our path includes social justice, peacemaking, forgiveness, and stewardship. We seek to include challenge, humor and generosity in all aspects of our lives.

We celebrate this statement as a glimpse into where we are now, acknowledging that all things change. Amen!