

Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
November 22, 2020
Speaker: Jonathan Prescott
Celebrant: Susie Wilson

Call to Service

Lighting the Chalice: The Abundance of Our Lives Together - By Katie Gelfand

We light our chalice as a symbol of gratitude
as we celebrate the abundance of our lives together.
In this sanctuary we harvest bushels of strength for one another,
and offer our crop with the hands of compassion and generosity.
In the authentic and gentle manner of our connections,
we cultivate a simple sweetness to brighten our spirits.
May we be grateful for the ways we nourish and uplift each other,

Opening Words: For What Shall We Give Thanks? - By Laura Horton-Ludwig
(adapted)

The wheel of the year has turned again.
Once more the Thanksgiving season has arrived.
How shall we sing our song of gratitude now?
For what shall we give thanks?
For this moment;
for friends near and far;
for our breath;
for love;
for courage and clarity;
for strength;
for delight;
for laughter;
for beauty;
for our community together in heartfelt communion,
no less committed and caring.
sharing our lives with laptops and tablets;

for the sun and moon and stars in the sky;
for the trees who have seen so much
and still stand proud, stretching themselves to the sky;
for the bright voices of children;
for the wisdom of elders;
for actions that bless the world;
for hard work that makes a difference;
for music and art and celebration;
for generosity;
for compassion;
for endurance;

for joy;
for hope.
For resilience.

For all these things, we give thanks
as we worship together.

Music: *A Medley of Thanksgiving Hymns* <https://youtu.be/aIPzyy6asPM>

Greeting and Congregational News

Introduction of Speaker

Sharing of Joys and Sorrows

Meditation The Courage to Continue on the Journey - By Lyn Cox

Spirit of Life and Love, known by many names and yet fully known by none, we give thanks for this time and this place of renewal. We give thanks for the ability to begin again: after the disaster, after the tragedy, after the loss, after meeting the challenge set before us. Grant us the courage to continue on the journey, the courage to speak up for the well being of others and ourselves and the planet. May we forgive each other when our courage falls short, and may we try again. Grant us hearts to love boldly, to embody our faith and our values in living words and deeds. May our hearts open to embrace humility, grace, and reconciliation. Grant us the ability to learn and grow, to let the Spirit of Love and Truth work its transformation upon us and within us. Grant us the spirit of hospitality, the willingness to sustain a fit dwelling place for the holy that resides in all being. Grant us a sense of being at peace in the world, even as we are in motion. Let us cultivate together the strength to welcome every kind of gift and all manner of ways to be on the journey together. To this we add the silent prayers of our hearts.
(Pause) Blessed be.

Music for Meditation: *Adagio* by Secret Garden (an Irish-Norwegian duo)
<https://youtu.be/nNL9Lole-iE>

Today's Message: Reflections on Gratitude

Closing Words

Go in peace, speak the truth - By Gary Kowalski

Go in peace, speak the truth, give thanks each day.
Respect the earth and her creatures,
for they are alive like you.
Care for your body; it is a wondrous gift.
Live simply. Be of service.
Be guided by your faith and not your fear.

Go lightly on your path. Walk in a sacred manner.
Amen.

Extinguishing the Chalice

We Keep Its Light in Our Hearts - By Maddie Sifantus

We extinguish this flame,
But we keep its light in our hearts,
with its message of love and justice,
Taking it outside these walls to the world we live in,
until we are together again.

Closing Song: *You'll Never Walk Alone* <https://youtu.be/6gpoJNv5dlQ>