

New Year, New You – Finding Our Center

Gathering Music:

When Our Heart is in a Holy Place #1008 played by UUSGU
Gathered Here #389 played by Jess Huetteman

Welcome

Chalice Lighting – Risk to Be Safe by Rev. Joe Cherry

When I was a kid and we played tag, there was always something called The Safe Tree. If you were touching this temporarily magical tree (are any trees temporarily magical?) you could not be made “it,” or tagged out. The challenge was getting to the tree, because surely it was guarded by the current person who was “it,” and whose goal it was to tag you so you would be It and they would no longer be that.

To be close to the center, to the Safe Tree, meant you had to risk being vulnerable to the person who could tag you. You had to risk to be safe.

If we think of the Safe Tree as the center, the center of the game, the place of safety, we can come to realize that safety involves some risk, and like the tree, is only temporarily magical.

We light this chalice, a central symbol of our faith, knowing that while the flame of our chalice is only temporary, our faith in its meaning is endless.

Musical Interlude: ‘Tis a Gift to be Simple #16 – Saint Andrews Episcopal Church, Seattle

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the 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 gain'd,
To bow and to bend we will not be asham'd,
To turn, turn will be our delight,

Till by turning, turning we come round right.

Reading: A Selection of Quotes read by Jeff Witmer

Story for All Ages – The Fisherman and the Businessman

Candle for Racial Justice

Sharing of Joys, Appreciations, and Concerns

Sharing Our Financial Gifts

Offertory: Come and Find the Quiet Center – Kirk Marcy & Bothell High School Combined Choirs

Reading: David Brooks, from The Road to Character read by Ryan Mincey

TED Talk: You don't actually know what your future self wants –
Shankar Vedantam

Reflection – Ryan Mincey

Closing Song: Unwritten – Natasha Bedingfield

Extinguishing the Chalice: The Daring of Our Intentions – Rev.
Kaaren Anderson

May we dare to live from the center of our being.
May we make our own choices before others' choices make us
May the fire that burns in our belly, light our way.
And may that personal commitment to our own individual lights, make
the world shine anew.

Postlude: Take Me Home, Country Roads – John Denver

Sources of Wisdom from the Unitarian Universalist Covenant:

The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

- 1) Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;
- 2) Words and deed of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- 3) Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- 4) Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- 5) Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- 6) Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

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Service Offered in Reverence by Jeff Witmer & Ryan Mincey

Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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