



January Theme: Love

*Joy is the gift of love. Grief is the price of love.
Anger is the force that protects that which is loved.*

~ Valerie Kaur

Sunday, January 7, 2024

“The Greatest of These is Love”

with Rev. Mary Gear

The Christian Bible says that three gifts of the spirit are faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love. Our spiritual theme for the month of January is “Love.” This month, we’ll explore the meaning of all three gifts: faith, hope, and this Sunday, the greatest of these, love.

Prelude *Troy Fisher (he/him)*

Morning Song *Troy Fisher*

Hymn #1043 “Szekely Aldas” (*Szekely Blessing*)

Words: Traditional Transylvanian

Music: Elizabeth H. Norton

Welcome *Des McGahern (he/him)*

Lighting the Chalice *Des McGahern*

with the words of Rev. Maureen Killoran

Opening Words *Rev. Mary Gear (she/her)*

from “To Invoke Love” by Rev. Sean Parker Dennison

Opening Hymn *Troy Fisher*

Hymn #1014 “Answering the Call of Love”

Words & Music: Jason Shelton

Reflection on the Spiritual Theme of Love *Des McGahern*

Musical Interlude *Troy Fisher*

Share the Plate Offering *Des McGahern*

Offertory *Troy Fisher*

“Hey Hey Hey”

Words & Music: Michael Franti

Ritual of Sharing From the Heart *Rev. Mary Gear*

Prayerful Practice *Rev. Mary Gear*

Musical Response *Troy Fisher*

Hymn #34 “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

Words: Hal Hoopson

Music: Trad. English melody, adapt. by Hal Hopson

Reading *Des McGahern*

from All About Love by bell hooks

Part 1: The Greatest of These is Love *Rev. Mary Gear*

Musical Interlude *Troy Fisher*

Reading *Des McGahern*

adapted from the writing of the Rev. Dr. Michael Tino

Part 2: Centering Love *Rev. Mary Gear*

Closing Hymn *Troy Fisher*

“There Is a Love”

Words: Dr. Rebecca Parker / Music: Elizabeth Norton

At OUUC, masks are welcome and optional. Please join us online if you don't feel well.

Kindly put your cell phones into Airplane Mode to help us ensure a meaningful experience for all in attendance online and in-person.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the sanctuary at the tech desk.

Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice
with the words of Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Rev. Mary Gear

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection questions:

- What does love mean to you?
 - What do you think it means to center love?
 - What might OUUC be like if we centered love?
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After-Service Forum (11:30 am today): “What does love mean to you?” with Rev. Mary Gear and Rev. Sara Lewis

UUA 30 Days of Love 2024: January 15-February 14

<https://sidewithlove.org/30-days-of-love-2024>

Next Sunday, January 14, 2023: “What is Hope?” with Rev. Mary Gear

The Christian Bible says that the three gifts of the Spirit are faith, hope and love. We draw on the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to explore the gift of hope and how we hold hope in hard times.

Jan. 14 After-Service Forum: “Investing in Our Values” with the Faith in Action team

Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update:

<https://www.ouuc.org/who-we-are/publications/weekly-update/>

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for January and February is the Medical Equipment Bank.

The mission of the Medical Equipment Bank is to receive donated medical equipment and supplies, and provide them to seniors, their families and individuals with disabilities who cannot afford to purchase on their own. The Equipment Bank provides support and equipment to individuals as they move toward building physical and mental strength, independence and overall well being so they can remain in their homes.

This organization is under the umbrella of The Thurston County Council on Aging, also the publisher of the Senior News that provides over 18,000 publications a month to Thurston, Mason and Lewis Counties.

The Medical Equipment Bank is completely supported by volunteers, donated equipment, supplies, grants and cash donations. Donations are gratefully accepted as a way to "pay it forward."

If you write a check, please note "pledge" if it is a pledge payment. Other donations will benefit the Share the Plate program. ***Please note our new address and update your online billpay services as needed.***

- Checks can be mailed to OUUC at: 2306 East End St NW
Olympia, WA 98502
- Donate online at <https://onrealm.org/OUUC/give/offering>
- Donate by text: Text "OUUC offering" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

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