



Our spiritual practice for May is **Imagination**.

*“Logic will get you from A to Z;
imagination will get you everywhere.”*
~ Albert Einstein

Sunday, May 18, 2025

“Imagine Hope”

with Rev. Mary Gear and musical guest Carrie Newcomer

We welcome back folk singer Carrie Newcomer and pianist Gary Walters as we explore the radical act of hope in these times.

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, onsite and online.

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

Prelude

Troy Fisher (he/him)

Morning Song

Congregation

“I Am Willing”

Words & Music: Holly Near, arr. by Steven Milloy

Welcome

Liz Clement (they/she)

Chalice Lighting

Anne Kohlbry (she/her)

with the words of Suzelle Lynch

In Memoriam: David Hare

Troy Fisher

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Opening Words

“Know only that you are loved”

by Rev. Gretchen Haley

Rev. Mary Gear (she/her)

Opening Hymn

“We Shall Be Known”

Words & Music: Karisha Longaker of MaMuse

Congregation

The Story of “The Great Turning”

Rev. Mary Gear

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Share the Plate Offering

Liz Clement

Offertory

“If Not Now”

Words & Music: Carrie Newcomer

Choral Arrangement: Gary Walters

Carrie Newcomer (she/her),

Gary Walters (he/him),

and the OUUC Choir

Ritual of Sharing From the Heart

Rev. Mary Gear

Prayerful Practice

adapted from “The Pulse of Life”

by Jennifer Johnson

Rev. Mary Gear

Musical Response

Gary Walters

Reading 1

All of our readings today come from Active Hope:

How to Face the Mess We’re in with Unexpected

Resilience & Creative Power by Joanna Macy and

Chris Johnstone.

Anne Kohlbray

Musical Interlude

“A Great Wild Mercy”

Words & Music: Carrie Newcomer

Carrie Newcomer

and Gary Walters

Reading 2

from Active Hope

Rev. Mary Gear

Musical Interlude

“Lifeline”

*Carrie Newcomer
and Gary Walters*

Songwriters: John McCutcheon and Carrie
Newcomer, with special thanks to Parker J. Palmer
for the story

Reading 3

Liz Clement

from Active Hope

Musical Interlude

“Lean in Toward the Light”

*Carrie Newcomer
and Gary Walters*

Words & Music: Carrie Newcomer

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Mary Gear

“Create Something New” by Rev. Alix Klingenberg

Postlude

Gary Walters

Reflection questions:

- What helps you stand tall and hold to hope these days?
 - What are you grateful for? What are you grieving?
 - What might “mutually assured creation” be like?
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Today’s After-Service Forum (12:15 pm, onsite & online):

“How are Two Services Working?” with Rev. Mary & the OUUC Board

Next Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):

“We Gather to Remember” with Rev. Mary Gear

On this Memorial Day weekend, we gather in community to remember our losses with ritual and song.

There will be no After-Service Forum on May 25th — Happy Memorial Day!

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for May and June is The Multicultural Service Center of South Sound:

The Multicultural Service Center of South Sound connects with newcomers from around the world, primarily refugees who have fled violent, repressive regimes in their home countries. The Center helps meet the unaddressed or under-addressed needs of these refugees, asylees, and other immigrants, such as their English Language Learner program. By nurturing their abilities to understand, the Multicultural Service Center of South Sound helps our newest residents contribute their gifts to the community, as workers, neighbors, parents, students, and future leaders.

If you write a check, please note "pledge" if it is a pledge payment. Other donations will benefit the Share the Plate program.

- Checks can be mailed to: 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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Save the dates for these After-Service Forums at 12:15 pm:

June 1 — Deep dive into the budget. Bring your questions! (The draft budget will be posted in advance.)

June 8 — Annual Congregational Meeting to vote on board members, Leadership Development Committee members, and budget.

NOTE: You will be able to participate (including voting) in both of these forums either onsite or on Zoom, as usual. Links and info about other upcoming services and forums can be found on our website, OUUC.org, under Worship -> Upcoming Services. <https://www.ouuc.org/worship/upcoming-services/>

Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update:
<https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>