



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

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

Sunday, May 4, 2025
“Complicated Love”
with Rev. Mary Gear

Feminist poet Adrienne Rich wrote,
“War is an absolute failure of imagination....”
We begin the exploration of the spiritual theme of “Imagination” with
reflections on war in Gaza and how we respond as a people of faith.

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

*Doug Booth
(Soprano Sax)*

Morning Song

Congregation

Hymn #298 “Wake, Now My Senses”

Words: Thomas J.S. Mikelson / Music: Traditional Irish
melody, harmony by Carlton R. Young

Welcome

Curt Hill (he/him)

Chalice Lighting

“The Embers of Imagination” by Rev. Michelle Collins

*Kedo Baye
(they/them)*

Opening Words

“Giving Thanks and Exploring Suffering”

by Myke Johnson

Rev. Mary Gear

(she/her)

Opening Hymn

Hymn #1028 “The Fire of Commitment”

Words: Mary Katherine Morn / Music: Jason Shelton

Congregation

Share the Plate Offering

Curt Hill

Offertory

“Imagine”

Words & Music: John Lennon, Arranged by Jay Althouse

OUUC Choir

Ritual of Sharing From the Heart

Rev. Mary Gear

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Mary Gear

Musical Response

“The Peace of Wild Things”

Words: Wendell Berry / Music: Jake Runestad

OUUC Choir

Reflection

Kedo Baye

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher (he/him)

Reading 1

excerpt from “A Declaration of Collective Atonement on the Part of Jews of Conscience: A Call for Grieving and Healing”

Kedo Baye

Part 1: Pain

Rev. Mary Gear

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Reading 2

a Facebook post from Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib, a Palestinian-American who has had 31 relatives killed in Gaza by Israeli military action, collected and shared by The Shalom Center

Kedo Baye

Part 2: Healing

Rev. Mary Gear

Closing Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #1031 “Filled with Loving Kindness”

Words: Traditional Buddhist Meditation; adapted by

Mark W. Hayes / Music: Ian W. Riddell

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Mary Gear

from the final message of the late Pope Francis

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection questions:

- How do you respond to hard things happening in the nation and world?
- Do you have experience of finding a middle way on something challenging?

Today’s After-Service Forum (12:15 pm, onsite & online):

Faith in Action: More on Classism and how we respond to inequality.

Next Sunday, May 11, 2025, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):

“A Radical Culture of Vulnerability and Care” with Rev. Sara Lewis

There will be no After-Service Forum on May 11th — Happy Mothers’ 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.

OUUC Auction: Let Our Light Shine. Thanks to everyone who made last night's Live Auction and dinner such a joyful celebration! **The Online Auction is still going strong — bidding closes today at 5 PM!** There's still time to snag handmade goods, unique experiences, and fun community events. You can also donate to our Raise the Paddle causes: new sound & light investments for the sanctuary, and support for immigrant families. Set your alarm for 4:30 and make your final bids at <https://auctria.events/ouuc> !

Speaking of generosity, we're wrapping up the most successful stewardship drive ever, with a pledge total of just over \$545,000! That's an 11% increase over last year. **Thank you to all who support OUUC's vision, mission, and community.** <https://www.ouuc.org/give/stewardship/>

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