



I don't know exactly what a prayer is. I do know how to pay attention....how to kneel down in the grass, how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields..."

~ Mary Oliver, *"The Summer Day"*

Sunday, August 23rd, 2026
"How the Light Gets In"

with Rev. Carol Mckinley

"There is a crack, a crack in everything - that's how the light gets in," writes Leonard Cohen in "Anthem." As individuals and as a community holding love at the center, we can help that light get into our lives, and into the world.

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

Hymn #1014 "Answering the Call of Love"

Words & music: Jason Shelton

The promise of the Spirit:
faith, hope and love abide.
And so ev'ry soul
is blessed and made whole;
the truth in our hearts is our guide.

Chorus:

We are answering the call of love:
hands joined together as hearts beat as one.
Emboldened by faith, we dare to proclaim
we are answering the call of love.

.

Sometimes we build a barrier
to keep love tightly bound.
Corrupted by fear,
unwilling to hear,
denying the beauty we've found.

.

Chorus:

We are answering the call of love:
hands joined together as hearts beat as one.
Emboldened by faith, we dare to proclaim
we are answering the call of love.

.

A bright new day is dawning
when love will not divide.
Reflections of grace
in ev'ry embrace,
fulfilling the vision divine.

Chorus:

We are answering the call of love:
hands joined together as hearts beat as one.
Emboldened by faith, we dare to proclaim
we are answering the call of love.

We are answering the call of love.

Welcome

Des McGahern
(he/him)

Chalice Lighting

words of the Reverend Lex Crane

Des McGahern

Opening Words

“The Sun Never Says”

by Shams-ud-din Muhammad Hafiz

*Rev. Carol McKinley
(she/her)*

Opening Hymn

“Loosen”

Words & music: Aly Halpert

Congregation

Part 1: Loosen, loosen, baby.

You don't have to carry
the weight of the world
in your muscles and bones.
Let go, let go, let go.

Part 2: Holy breath and holy name:
Will you ease, will you ease this pain?

Story For All

“The Frog Prince” by Christopher Buice

Des McGahern

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Share the Plate Offering

Des McGahern

Offertory

“Anthem”

Words & music: Leonard Cohen

Troy Fisher

The birds they sang
At the break of day
Start again
I heard them say
Don't dwell on what has passed away
Or what is yet to be

Ah, the wars they will be fought again
The holy dove, she will be caught again
Bought and sold, and bought again
The dove is never free

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

We asked for signs
The signs were sent
The birth betrayed
The marriage spent
Yeah, and the widowhood
Of every government
Signs for all to see

I can't run no more
With that lawless crowd
While the killers in high places
Say their prayers out loud
But they've summoned, they've summoned up
A thundercloud
They're going to hear from me

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

You can add up the parts
But you won't have the sum
You can strike up the march
There is no drum
Every heart, every heart
To love will come
But like a refugee

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything

That's how the light gets in

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in
That's how the light gets in
That's how the light gets in

Ritual of Sharing from the Heart

Rev. Carol McKinley

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Carol McKinley

Musical Response

Congregation

"Becoming"

Words & music: Mary Grigolia

I am who I'm becoming, I am all I have done.
I am what I am dreaming, I've only just begun.

You are who you're becoming, you are all you
have done.
You are what you are dreaming, you've only just
begun.

We are who we're becoming, we are all we have
done.
We are what we are dreaming, we've only just
begun.

Reading 1

Des McGahern

"Our Passion for Justice: Images of Power, Sexuality, and
Liberation" by Rev. Carter Heyward

Part 1: There Is a Crack

Rev. Carol McKinley

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Reading 2

Des McGahern

“Otherwise, The Darkness” by Thomas Aquinas

Part 2: How the Light Gets In

Rev. Carol McKinley

Closing Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #131 “Love Will Guide Us”

Words: Sally Rogers / Music: Traditional, arr. By Betty
A. Wylder

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot speak before thousands,
you can give from deep within you.
You can change the world with your love.

You are like no other being,
what you can give no other can give
to the future of our precious children,
to the future of the world where we live.

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Carol McKinley

words of Audre Lorde

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection Questions:

1. If asked, would you have trouble explaining what love means?
 2. What are some unexpected ways it has shown up in your life?
 3. How do you see love in action at OUUC?
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There is no after service forum today, forums will return in September.

Next Sunday, August 30th, 2026, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):

“What’s in Your Backpack?” with Rev. Mary & Rev. Sara

As we begin a new school year, we bless the backpacks for those of all ages who attend school, and we reflect on what we all carry in our backpacks. How do we pack for these times?

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for July and August is Puget Sound Estuarium:

OUUC member Diana Larsen-Mills and her husband Ken Guza founded Puget Sound Estuarium in 2007. The Estuarium focuses on environmental learning, stewardship, and community engagement. Its science-based programs serve learners from pre-kindergarten through adulthood, helping people understand and protect the waters, shorelines, species, and estuaries of the South Sound. The “Share the Plate” proceeds will enhance the Estuarium’s scholarship fund so that these learning opportunities will be accessible to all.

If you write a check, please note "PLEDGE" if it is a pledge payment. All other donations in the basket 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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Our FUUN team has created a scavenger hunt here at OUUC that you can engage with this month. Look for scavenger hunt sheets in the Commons, and return them to be entered to win a prize in a drawing at the August 30th All OUUC Picnic. Please join us for some fun!

All OUUC Congregational Picnic, August 30 at noon at Yauger Park.

Come join the fun!

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

<https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>