

Love is the doctrine of this church.
The quest for truth is its sacrament.
And service is its prayer.

Prelude

Centering Thought

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

—Margaret Mead

Welcome

Chalice Lighting

"Come we now out of the darkness of our unknowing
and the dusk of our dreaming;
Come we now from far places.
Come we now into the twilight of our awakening
and the reflection of our gathering.
Come we now all together.
We bring, unilluminated, our dark caves of doubting;
We seek, unbedazzled, the clear light of understanding.
May the sparks of our joining kindle our resolve,
brighten our spirits, reflect our love, and unshadow our days.
Come we now; enter the dawning."

—Annie Foerster

First Hymn

"Love Will Guide Us" (#131, Singing the Living Tradition)

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

We invite you to light a candle at this time as an expression of a joy or concern that you'd like to share.

Story for All Ages

"Horton Hears a Who!" (by Dr. Seuss)

In unison:

Go now in peace, go now in peace. May the spirit of love surround you,
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Offertory

First Reading

"When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

—Matthew 2:13

Meditation

Second Hymn

"My Life Flows on in Endless Song" (#108, Singing the Living Tradition)

Theme Talk

"Be Welcome!"

by David Craig

Third Hymn

"We'll Build a Land" (#121, Singing the Living Tradition)

Benediction

"We receive fragments of holiness,
Glimpses of eternity,
Brief moments of insight.
Let us gather them up for the precious gifts that they are and,
Renewed by their grace,
Move boldly into the unknown."

—Sara Moores Campbell

Extinguishing the Chalice

In unison:

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community,
or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together
again.

Coffee Hour & Discussion of the Theme Talk