

Benediction

"What we call a beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time."
—T.S. Elliot

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.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

(see insert)

Refreshments



"Like Moths to a Flame: the Power of Positive Energy"



Homily by Carolyn Burmedi
Led by Terri J. Michos



March 20th, 2016



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

Prelude

"The Secret Rose" (written and performed by John Keating)

Welcome

"We are here to abet creation and witness to it, to notice each other's beautiful face and complex nature so that creation need not play to an empty house."

—Annie Dillard

Chalice Lighting

"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

—Albert Schweitzer



First Hymn

"Blue Boat Home" (#1064, Singing the Living Tradition)

First Reading

From the fragmented world of our everyday lives we gather together in search of wholeness.

By many cares and preoccupations, by diverse and selfish aims are we separated from one another and divided within ourselves.

Yet we know that no branch is utterly severed from the Tree of Life that sustains us all.

We cherish our oneness with those around us and the countless generations that have gone before us.

We would hold fast to all of good we inherit even as we would leave behind us the outworn and the false.

We would escape from bondage to the ideas of our own day and from the delusions of our own fancy.

Let us labor in hope for the dawning of a new day without hatred, violence, and injustice.

Let us nurture the growth in our own lives of the love that has shone in the lives of the greatest of men and women, the rays of whose lamps still illumine our way.

In this spirit we gather. In this spirit we pray.

—Phillip Hewitt

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Story for All Ages

"Night Tree" (by Eve Bunting)

In unison:

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

Offertory

Second Reading

"In this time of meditation, may you rest in the grace of the world and be free.

In weakness, may you sense the strength of the eternal hills, and rest in the grace of the world.

In failure, may you be upheld like the buoyancy of water, and rest in the grace of the world.

In limitation, may you remember that the choices may be as great as the expanse of the sky, and rest in the grace of the world.

In insecurity, may you feel the solid earth beneath your feet, and rest in the grace of the world.

In despair, may you hear the joy in birds' singing, and rest in the grace of the world.

In fear, may you feel the warmth of the sun, and rest in the grace of the world.

"For a time, I rest in the grace of the world and am free." So be it.

—Wendell Berry

Meditation



Second Hymn

"Spirit of Life" (#123, Singing the Living Tradition)

Homily

"Like a Moth to a Flame: the Power of Positive Energy"

by Carolyn Burmedi



Third Hymn

"The 23rd Psalm" (#1038, Singing the Journey, performed by Elizabeth Malone, John Keating, Teresa Zink and Michael Zink)