



## **CHALICE CIRCLES**

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Columbia, Missouri

# **Community**

When I can hear you,  
What lives most deeply in you,  
Then our meeting is a song.

– Janet Peterson

I am part of all that I have met.

– Alfred Tennyson

We were born to unite with our fellow men, and to  
join in community with the human race.

– Cicero

### **OPENING; Lighting the Chalice**

We gather around this flame that symbolizes:

the truth we know  
and the truth we seek,  
the community we share  
and the community we aspire to,  
the learning that enables us  
and the mystery that encompasses.

Here we speak the languages  
of memory and hope.

Here we are welcomed,  
our journeys embraced and shared.

### **Check-in**

In a minute or two describe how you find yourself at this moment and mention what you need to put aside to be fully present in this Circle.

### **Reading**

*We are the light of the world.*

When we treat our neighbors with respect,

*We are the light of the world.*

When we look for the good in other people and in ourselves,

*We are the light of the world.*

When we speak our minds firmly and gently in the face of prejudice,

*We are the light of the world.*

When we fight despair within ourselves and side with hope,

*We are the light of the world.*

When we use our powers justly in the service of humanity,

*We are the light of the world.*

### **Sitting in Silence**

Take a few minutes to center and reflect your experiences of and hopes for community.

### **Sharing/ Deep Listening**

As the spirit moves you, please share what you have prepared.

### **Second Sharing**

This is an opportunity say what has been brought up for you or to acknowledge the experience of another.

### **Likes and Wishes**

Now, at the conclusion of four gatherings together, reflect on your experience in this group, and express your likes and wishes.

### **Responsive Reading**

We clasp the hands of those that go before us,

*And the hands of those who come after us.*

We enter the little circle of each other's arms

*And the larger circle of lovers whose hands are joined in a dance.*

And the larger circle of all creatures,

*Passing in and out of life, who move also in a dance.*

To a music so subtle and vast that no ears hear it

*except in fragments. ~ Wendell Berry*

### **Extinguishing the Chalice**

Each day we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and to give back.

– Dag Hammarskjöld