

2021 February Chalice Circle

Hymn. no. 389 Gathered Here

*Gathered here in the mystery of the hour.
Gathered here in one strong body.
Gathered here in the struggle and the power.
Spirit draw near.*

Hymn no. 1059 May Your Life Be as a Song

*May your life be as a song
Resounding with the dawn
To sing awake the light
And softly serenade the stars
Ever dancing circles in the night.*



Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Mo.

Love Well

"So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well..."

~ Philippians 1:9

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

*“Love isn’t just one thing;
it’s fierce and soft,
intimate and collective,
wild and sincere and deliberate and just.
Love can be more chaos than order.
Love can be a boundary.
Love can be conflict.
It’s complicated.
It’s multifaceted.
Love is hard work.
Love is natural.
Love is a process and practice.
Though its paths are many and varied,
love always leads to life.
Love is an ever-unfolding thing
we are all still figuring out.”*

– enfolded, spiritual nourishment for collective liberation

Song (optional- words on back cover) **Gathered Here**

Check-in

Briefly describe where you are in your life now, and notice what needs to be left aside in order to be fully present in our Circle.

Reading (please close your eyes while listening to the readings.)

Whenever I find myself with someone facing a difficult decision or inner conflict, I always ask the same question: “What does it mean to love well in this moment?” This question can be as frustrating as it is centering. Love is so many things, so multi-faceted, so rigorous and beautiful and simple and difficult and sacred.

The question doesn’t provide a clear-cut map forward through difficulty, but it always, always offers a north star. What does it mean to love well in this moment? Let us journey the question together this month, step by faltering, faithful step.

– Rev. Molly

Reading no. . 562

"Love cannot remain by itself - it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service. Whatever form we are, able or disabled, rich or poor, it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing; a lifelong sharing of love with others."

~Mother Teresa

Silent Meditation

This is the time for silent meditation. Take this time to center yourself. Think about what you might want to share with the group

Sharing/ Deep Listening

Please share your experience and thoughts on loving well.

Additional Thoughts

What came up for you while listening to others?

Checkout — Likes and wishes

What did you like about this meeting? What do you wish for future meetings? Final thoughts on this topic?

Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice

"Oh God(/Goddess/Spirit), whose name is Love, hold us close in this season of waiting. Rejoice with us in every instant of hope breaking in to our world. Open our hearts to the messy reality of our interdependence. Guide us into living vulnerably and bravely in that truth. Teach us to love each other as part of one body, so that each and every one of us may survive and thrive."

~ Elizabeth Bukey

Song (optional- words on back cover) **May Your Life Be Like a Song**

Thanks to everyone who has been with us and shared your words and/or your presence today. -- Kathie Bergman, CC Team