

2021 April 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.

Nurturing Beauty

"Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful;
for beauty is God's handwriting."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson quoted in *To See the World
in a Grain of Sand* edited by Caesar Johnson

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

We Are a People of Beauty

Recognizing the beauty around us and within us, in voice and spirit, we gather to light our chalice. May we savor the beauty of our abundance and diversity, always cherishing one another and our earth. May we remember to inhale the lushness in life knowing that we are a people of beauty.

By [Kimberlee Anne Tomczak Carlson](#)

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

Check-in

Briefly describe where you are in your life now.

Reading : Beauty saves. Beauty heals. Beauty motivates. Beauty unites. Beauty returns us to our origins, and here lies the ultimate act of saving, of healing, of overcoming dualism. Beauty allows us to forget the pain and dwell on the joy.
— Matthew Fox in *Original Blessing*

Silent Meditation: Many sacred writings are filled with tributes to beauty. Use this one from Rumi during our period of meditation. Notice any increased awareness that accompanies the repetition of the mantra.

Breathing in: Every moment . . .
Breathing out: a new beauty.

This is the time for silent meditation. Take this time to center yourself.

Reading : A spontaneous act of generosity, performed with unselfish grace is an example of moral beauty, as are certain acts of courage; genuine modesty is a possible example, as is selfless love. Some people appear to possess moral beauty as others possess physical beauty. Although moral beauty may be a natural gift, it is nevertheless more likely to emerge and flourish in societies that appreciate and encourage it.
— Yi-Fu Tuan in *Passing Strange and Wonderful*

Sharing/ Deep Listening

Please share from your experience and thoughts. You might want to answer one or two of the following questions: What to you is beauty? What comes to your mind when you think of the word? Are you currently involved in an activity that creates beauty? How can you share or enhance beauty in your relationships? Do you consciously seek out beauty in your everyday life? Why?

Additional Thoughts

What came up for you while listening to others?

Song (optional - words on page 3) **What a Wonderful World**

(Facilitator: You may want to pull up this song on YouTube and simply share it in that way, although, singing it together is also very nice.)

Checkout — *Likes and wishes - Final thoughts on this topic?*

What did you like about this meeting? What do you wish for future meetings?

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

Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice

Let Our Lives Be a Prayer

Let our lives be a prayer

That waters dry souls

Mends broken hearts

Refuses to be terrorized

Seeks this world's beauty

And carries us through its storms.

By The Rev. Joel Miller, First Unitarian Church of Rochester, N.Y.

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

Oh yeah

"What A Wonderful World" --Louis Armstrong

I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom
For me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

I see skies of blue
And clouds of white
The bright blessed day
The dark sacred night
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow
So pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces
Of people going by
I see friends shaking hands
Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying
"I love you"

I hear babies cry
I watch them grow
They'll learn much more
Than I'll never know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world

Yes, I think to myself
What a wonderful world