

March 2025 Chalice—Care for the Collective
UU Value: Covenant

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

“We ignite this flame, symbol of our faith,
to beckon us into community,
warm our hearts with love,
and give us a light to follow as we carry our faith into action.” Chrystal Hogan

Song: [The Wailin Jennies, "One Voice"](#)

Lyrics: This is the sound of one voice
One spirit, one voice
The sound of one who makes a choice
This is the sound of one voice (x2)

This is the sound of voices two
The sound of me singing with you
Helping each other to make it through
This is the sound of voices two (x2)

This is the sound of voices three
Singing together in harmony
Surrendering to the mystery
This is the sound of voices three (x2)

This is the sound of all of us
Singing with love and the will to trust
Leave the rest behind it will turn to dust
This is the sound of all of us (x2)

This is the sound of one voice
One people, one voice
A song for every one of us
This is the sound of one voice (x2)

Check-in: Without crosstalk or interruption, briefly describe where you are in your life now, and notice what needs to be shared in order to be fully present in our circle.

Reading 1:

“What can they do
to you? Whatever they want.
They can set you up, they can
bust you, they can break
your fingers, they can
burn your brain with electricity,
blur you with drugs till you
can't walk, can't remember, they can
take your child, wall up
your lover. They can do anything
you can't stop them
from doing. How can you stop
them? Alone, you can fight,
you can refuse, you can
take what revenge you can
but they roll over you.

But two people fighting
back to back can cut through
a mob, a snake-dancing file
can break a cordon, an army
can meet an army.

Two people can keep each other
sane, can give support, conviction,
love, massage, hope, sex.
Three people are a delegation,
a committee, a wedge. With four
you can play bridge and start
an organization. With six
you can rent a whole house,
eat pie for dinner with no
seconds, and hold a fund raising party.
A dozen make a demonstration.
A hundred fill a hall.
A thousand have solidarity and your own newsletter;
ten thousand, power and your own paper;
a hundred thousand, your own media;
ten million, your own country.

It goes on one at a time,
it starts when you care
to act, it starts when you do
it again and they said no,
it starts when you say We
and know who you mean,
and each day you mean one more.”
Marge Piercy, “The Low Road”

Reading 2:

“If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships - the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace.” Franklin D. Roosevelt

Questions to Consider:

1. What groups or organizations have you been a part of? Why did you join? What did it feel like to be a part of them?
2. What does it mean to “care for the collective”? How is this different from caring for each other?
3. How does a UU value of “covenant” come into play with groups that are not UU? What promises do the members of a collective make to each other? Are these covenants ever explicit?
4. When have you witnessed the power of a collective?

Sitting in Silence: We will sit in silence for 3-5 minutes. Take this time to reflect on the readings, questions, and theme. Center yourself and consider what you want to share with the group.

Sharing/Deep Listening: Please share your own experiences and thoughts about the topic and readings with no crosstalk or interruption. Please ensure everyone gets an equal opportunity to share.

Additional Thoughts/Crosstalk: As time allows, after listening to others, do you have additional thoughts to share?

Checkout: What are you taking with you as you leave the circle? How can we support you in the month ahead?

Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice

from Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto

To be free, you must embrace
the breadth of your own existence
without apology, even if they try to take
it from you. You must know, not that you
can do whatever you want; you are not
a kudzu vine, eating entire hillsides for
the purpose of feeding your own lush life. You
must know instead, that inside you are entire
Universes—milky blue, magenta, and gold—
expanding. But to actually be free, you must
know and you must fight for the entire
Universes inside of everyone else.
Being free is not a license, but
A promise.