

UCC Chalice Circles - April 2026

Theme

Survival is not the end. It is a seed.

Translation

Possibility, Future

Chalice Lighting

We light our chalice as a symbol of the Light within us
and the life that flows through the world around us.

It is our beacon as we search for truth.

It is the warmth in our hearts for love.

And it is the energy that propels us to action.

May we be kindled by our time together.

—Brian C. Lee

Song: #188 “Come, Come, Whoever You Are” ([recording](#))

“Come, come, whoever you are,
wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again come.”

Check-in

Without crosstalk or interruption, please check in with the group, describing where you are in your life now, noticing what needs to be shared in order to be fully present in our circle.

Reading #1

For each child that's born, a morning star rises and sings to the universe who we are.

Listen carefully...

Can you still hear the song?

The one sung for you when you were born.

The song sung by a cosmos in motion

rejoicing at your life.

You, the result.

You, the outcome.

You, the celebration.

Listen carefully...

Can you hear it still?

A song of possibility.

A reminder that we still have time to be who and what we need to be.

Listen carefully...

The vast expanse echoes a recognition that it's not always easy.

Possibilities can be hard to pursue.

Roads not taken, wrong turns, destinations that disappoint.

Through this, the song persists.

The universe sings no less because time and space wear us thin.

The music calls us to recognize our limitations, to recognize that the song is best sung with others.

Here in community, bringing alive that most primordial and original impulse, the desire to sing to the universe who we are, to celebrate and share our lives with others.

—“Song of the Universe,” by Manish K. Mishra-Marzetti

Reading #2

“The only thing that makes life possible is permanent, intolerable uncertainty: not knowing what comes next.”

— “The Left Hand of Darkness,” by Ursula K. Le Guin

Reading #3

“Human relationships always help us to carry on because they always presuppose further developments, a future - and also because we live as if our only task was precisely to have relationships with other people.”

—Albert Camus

Questions to Consider:

1. What do you think about the idea of survival not being the end in itself, but, rather, a seed or beginning? What type of seed might it be and what might it need to grow?
2. The first reading asked us to listen to the “song of possibility.” What might that sound like for you? What comes to mind when you consider the word, “possibility”?
3. Do you agree with Le Guin’s statement that uncertainty is what makes life possible? Why or why not?

Sitting in Silence

We will sit in silence for 5 minutes. Take this time to center yourself and reflect on the readings, questions, and theme, considering what you would like to share with the group.

Sharing/Deep Listening

Please listen deeply to others & share of your own experience and thoughts on the readings, questions, or theme without crosstalk or interruption. Please ensure everyone gets an equal opportunity to participate.

Second Sharing/Crosstalk

As time allows, after listening to others, do you have additional thoughts to share?

Check-Out

How are you feeling now, as you leave our circle? What are you taking with you? How can we support you in the weeks ahead?

Extinguishing the Chalice

We close our time together with the humble reminder that Justice and Equity are our spiritual practices to embrace.

Each day, every day,

we are blessed to be the embodiment of what is possible, when Justice and Equity ground us in all that we do.

May we go forth with the light and warmth of our chalice in our hearts until we are together again.

—Rebekah Savage