

River of Grass UU Congregation

January 1, 2023 – 10:30 am

New Beginnings

“Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.”

- From “the Wizard of Oz,” by L. Frank Baum

OOS LINK: <https://riverofgrassuu.org/uploads/3/5/1/8/35180936/riverofgrass-oos230101.pdf>

The link for this service only is:

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Welcome to 2023 and Happy New Year! Today’s pre-recorded service is available at the above link anytime on January 1st.

Sunday’s worship service focuses on exploring and celebrating New Beginnings. Are all beginnings, by their very nature, new? Is a beginning simply an ending, which then wipes the slate clean and we can write a new story in that space? Or is a new beginning what rises as a shared experience, crisis, or the desire to embrace change? Maybe you will remember that you, too, have had many New Beginnings!

This worship service is presented by the Wildpines Covenant Group. It’s one of several groups at River of Grass where people gather once monthly or more to engage in reflective discussions and personal exploration with hopes of fostering deeper connections. For more information or to join a covenant group, please email: covenantgroups@riverofgrassuu.org.

REMEMBER: On 1/8/23 we will be meeting at the Old Davie Schoolhouse at 2:00 pm. Questions: worship@riverofgrassuu.org

Diane Lade

New Beginnings

River of Grass – January 1, 2023 – Order of Service

Oh, Let Us Gather

Welcome

Call to Worship

Theme Hymn – “Morning Has Broken” Words: Eleanor Farjeon; Music: Gaelic melody; Performed by: Gary Gonzalez

Chalice Lighting – “The End is the Beginning” by: Katie Gelfand

We call forth the life of our faith by igniting our chalice.

*This spark of new beginnings invites us into a sacred space
to reflect where we have been and where we are going.*

*Even knowing that this particular flame will intentionally end
with our ritual extinguishing, we fear not its end...*

*For we know, with brave hearts,
that from every ending of our lives,*

We are sent forth to make a new beginning.

Covenant

Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its law.

This is our great covenant:

to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

El Amor es el espíritu de esta congregación, y el servicio su ley principal.

Esta es nuestra gran promesa:

vivir juntos en paz, buscar la verdad a través del amor, y ayudarnos mutuamente.

Music – “Return Again” Words & Music: Shlomo Carlebach; Performed by: Gary Gonzalez

Wisdom Story – “Starting Over” by Judith C. Campbell; Read by: Diane Diaz

Message - Part 1 – “Chapter One” by: Diane Lade

Music – “Holy Now” Words & Music: Peter Mayer; Performed by: Gary Gonzalez

Message - Part 2 – “Life in the Slow Lane” by: Bev Kaufman

Offering Hymn – “On the Road to Find Out” Words & Music: Cat Stevens; Performed by: Gary Gonzalez

Offering – <http://riverofgrassuu.org/donations.html>

Closing Words

Extinguish Chalice

Birthday Video

Announcements

Carrying the Flame