

River of Grass
Order of Service
Sunday, January 4, 2026
Monthly Theme: Practicing Resistance
Begin Again: A Fire Communion for the New Year
Leana Bresnahan

GATHERING

10:25 Morning Sing

#389 Gathered Here (2-part round), Words and Music by Phillip A Porter
Auld Lang Syne; Words: Robert Burns 1789. Music: Scottish Folk Tune
Oh, Let Us Gather, Words and Music by RevAmy Carol Webb

Ringing of the Chimes

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Music #1 May Nothing Evil Cross This Door; Words by Louis Untermeyer;
Music by Robert N. Quaille

Chalice Lighting On the Brink of a New Year by Lois Van Leer

A Flame to Light Our Path by Debra Burrell

We light this chalice on the brink of a new year

Letting go of what has been

Open and hopeful for what may come...

Fire consumes, and casts a bright light.

May our chalice flame consume our regrets for the past,
our fears about the future, and our worries about today.

CONNECTING

Covenant

English: *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.

Spanish: *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.

Wisdom Story "The Beautiful Tiger" by Christopher Buice

Singing the Children to Classes

Offering/Offertory

DEEPENING

Deepening Music #108 My Life Flows On in Endless Song; Words: Traditional and Verse 3
by Doris Plenn; Music:
Robert Lowry

Candles of Community

Stones Ritual; Moment of Reflection

Pastoral Response

Sung Response #371, #381; Music: Genevan Psalter 1551, Words: Isaac Watts 1674-1748

Message Begin Again: A Fire Communion for the New Year

Fire Communion Ritual

SENDING

Closing Music #368 Now Let Us Sing, Words & Music: Anonymous

Closing Words Out of the Flames by Sara Eileen LaWall

Extinguishing the Chalice The World is Waiting (Adapted) by Rev. Michelle Collins

Announcements and Invite to Hospitality

Sending; Shine On

Already Breaking Through by Michelle Collins

Invite to Hospitality/Music Reprise