

River of Grass
Order of Service
Sunday, August 24, 2025
Generosity

GATHERING

Morning Sing: Oh, Let Us Gather; Words and Music by RevAmy Carol Webb

Ringing of the Chimes

Prelude Count On Me, written by Bruno Mars, Philip Lawrence & Ari Levine

Welcome

Call to Worship

As we gather together this morning,

May we learn to recognize and affirm

The pieces of possibility —

The bits of good—we bring.

May we encourage rather than control;

Love rather than possess;

Enable rather than envy.

Allowing our individual gifts to weave a patchwork of peace:

The soft deep blue of sensitivity and understanding;

The red energy of creativity;

The white heat of convictions;

The risky, fragile green of new growth;

The golden flashes of gratitude;

The warm rose of love.

Each of us is indispensable

If we are to minister to a broken and wounded world.

Together, in our gathered diversity, we form the whole.

So be it. *By Bets Wienecke*

Opening Music #16 'Tis the Gift to Be Simple; Words: Joseph Bracket; Music: America Shaker Tune

Chalice Lighting "The Abundance of Our Lives Together."

We light our chalice as a symbol of gratitude

as we celebrate the abundance of our lives together.

In this sanctuary we harvest bushels of strength for one another,

and offer our crop with the hands of compassion and generosity.

In the authentic and gentle manner of our connections,

we cultivate a simple sweetness to brighten our spirits.

May we be grateful for the ways we nourish and uplift each other,

For it is the sharing of this hallowed time together that sustains us.

By Katie Sivani Gelfand

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.*

DEEPENING

Deepening Music #16 'Tis the Gift to Be Simple (last verse only)

Words: Joseph Bracket; Music: America Shaker Tune

Candles of Community

Stones of Reflection

Pastoral Response

Sung Response ALL #371 from a Genevan Psalter, Words #381 by Isaac Watts

Wisdom Story "Sophia's Guest" Written by Becky Brooks

Sing the Children to Class We Love You and Bless You, by RevAmy Carol Webb

Heritage:

Hope

Offering/Offertory #402 From You I Receive; Words and Music by Joseph and Nathan Segal

Message "The Answer I Wish I'd Given"

SENDING

Closing Music Lean on Me; Words and Music by Bill Withers

Closing Words

Extinguishing the Chalice

Announcements

Shine On

Invitation to Hospitality

Music Reprise