



**SKUUC Wednesday SGM
Transitions: Beginning Our Interim Ministry
Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 2 PM, SKUUC**

OPENING SONG: CHANT FOR THE SEASONS {No. 73 in Grey Hymnal}

CHALICE LIGHTING/INTRODUCTION

Reading in the Round (Each person read one line):

- Ministry is all that we do – together.
- Ministry is that quality of being in community that affirms human dignity –beckons forth hidden possibilities, invites us into deeper, more constant, reverent relationships, and carries forward our heritage of hope and liberation.
- Ministry is what we do together as we celebrate triumphs of our human spirit -- miracles of birth and life...wonders of devotion and sacrifice.
- Ministry is what we do together – with one another – in terror and torment – in grief, in misery and pain, enabling us in the presence of death to say yes to life.
- We who minister speak and live the best we know with full knowledge that it is never quite enough
- And yet are reassured by lostness found, fragments reunited, wounds healed and joy shared.
- Ministry is what we all do – together.

Rev. Gordon McKeeman

SILENT MEDITATION / CENTERING (2 min)

The first sound of the gong brings us to silence. Please take time to center yourself, and temporarily push aside whatever might be preventing you from participating fully in this session. The second sound of the gong returns us to each other's presence.

CHECK-IN (2 ROUNDS)

Round 1: Please share some thing(s) about your life since last we met. When you finish, choose who goes next.

Round 2: Now is the time to respond to what others brought up in their initial sharing, or to mention anything else you've been experiencing that you're ready to share.

COMMUNITY SINGING: WOYAYA (No. 1020 in Teal Hymnal)

QUOTES TO PONDER (Compiled by Steven Schick for two of the three sessions in "Be the Change", a series of three SGM sessions based on his 2009 book of the same name)

BEING A FORCE OF NATURE

(We have) only begun to envision how it might be to live as siblings with beast & flower, not as oppressors.

Denise Levertov

As long as the sky exists, and as long as there are sentient beings, may I remain to help relieve them of all their pain.

The Dalai Lama

Whatever peace I know rests in the natural world, in feeling myself part of it.

May Sarton

I will be the gladdest thing--Under the Sun--I will touch a hundred flowers--And not pick one.

Edna St. Vincent Millay

A borderland is a vague and undetermined place created by the emotional residue of an unnatural boundary.

Gloria Anzaldua

This is the true joy of life ... being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one ... being a force of Nature instead of a feverish little clod of ailments and grievances.

George Bernard Shaw

Reverence for life comprises the whole ethic of love in its deepest and highest sense. It is the sources of constant renewal for the individual and for mankind (sic).

Albert Schweitzer

THE INWARD JOURNEY

Love takes off the mask we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.

James Baldwin

And he whose soul is flat -- the sky -- Will cave in on him by and by.

Edna St. Vincent Millay

To insist that I must be only what I am now is a restriction which human nature must abhor.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel

There is no way to peace, peace is the way.

Rev. A.J. Mustie

I can lay no claim to goodness until I can prove that mean people have not made me mean.

Barbara Kingsolver

Today they tell me I'm going to Chiapas, to lead the people on a march. When we get to the roadblock, there will be armed paramilitaries ... My fear disappears when I begin to speak in these situations, without raising my voice.

Patria Jimenez

If you spend yourself in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Isaiah 58:10

When society is made up of men (sic) who know no interior solitude it can no longer be held together by love and consequently it is held together by a violent and abusive authority.

Thomas Merton

For there our captors asked us for song, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion! How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?"

Psalms 137

PREPARATION FOR GROUP REFLECTION

Read the Group Reflection questions, one by one.

GROUP SINGING: BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON (No. 1042 in Teal Hymnal)

[Concomitant With] BREAK

GROUP REFLECTION / FEEDBACK

Two rounds, or respectfully discuss each participant's ideas AFTER they have finished. Take a moment of silence and share with the group the most important things you wish Reverend Ruth to know about your responses to one or more of these questions. [NB: You will be able to schedule individual sessions with her in the near future, to share whatever you want with her].

YOU AND STARR KING CHURCH

- ☺ Briefly describe your own personal spiritual journey, and how it has changed during your life so far.
- ☺ Briefly describe your history with Starr King UU Church, and what your favorite roles have been in the congregation.
- ☺ How does this transition affect your sense of your role(s) in the congregation?
- ☺ How does this transition affect your own spiritual journey?

MINISTERIAL TRANSITION AND CONTINUITY

- ☺ What specifically are you grieving the loss of when you think of Reverenda Maria Cristina's ministry.
- ☺ What aspects of SKUUC's ministry (commonalities through the tenure of all our ministers) do you want to carry forward?
- ☺ What are some characteristics of SKUUC's ministry that you feel we may have lost, that you would like to renew?
- ☺ What are some processes of "normal" church life (pre-COVID) that would help you feel most comfortable traversing the interim ministry we are beginning now?

COMMUNITY SINGING: LET IT BE A DANCE (No. 361 in Teal Hymnal)

FUTURE PLANS

Relaunch whole program, open to all congregants? Schedules, facilitators, topics, Soul Matters or equivalent?

Suggestions for reflection (current fourth-Wednesday meetings)?

Plans for second-Wednesday meal sharing and discussions—Restaurants, discussion topics.

SESSION FEEDBACK

Is it time to revisit our covenant?

EXTINGUISH CHALICE/CLOSING WORDS

My hope for parish ministry is to be in deep relationship with members and community. To be a part of congregational life as the minister is a privilege and a joy. To be a part of the fuller lives of the members is an honor I hold with the deepest respect and seek to serve with utmost integrity.

Rev. Carie Johnsen

BENEDICTION SONG: IT'S A PLEASURE TO KNOW YOU (Lyrics follow).

IT'S A PLEASURE TO KNOW YOU (Karl Williams)

Chorus (Sing at beginning of song and after each verse):
It's a pleasure to know you, a pleasure to see you smile
A comfort to know we'll share the road awhile
Pleasure is fleeting, and comforts are far between
It's a pleasure to know you and the comfort you bring.

1.

I came to your city after I'd left my home
And I was a stranger, dressed up in stranger's clothes
Favors I needed, but charity's out of style--
Rare as the beauty in the face of a trusting child.

2.

Now they say life's a journey, a highway from birth to death
Mapped in despair, and traveled in hopelessness.
Well they may believe it, but just between you and me
The trick to the travelin' is all in the company.

3.

Now lovers may leave you, lovers may turn away.
Children may scorn you--you know that they will someday,
Seasons are fickle, and fate isn't known as kind
But friendship's the diamond, and trouble's the diamond mine.