

**WORSHIP SERVICE SCRIPT
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAMILTON
SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2011**

SERVICE TITLE: EARTH DAY SUNDAY: SACRED WATERS

DESCRIPTION: Your 2010 CUUL school grads will demonstrate their learning and leadership qualities by presenting an innovative spiritual service based on our appreciation of our wonderful planet Earth. The service will involve natural elements of water and rocks and include music, meditation, reflection, and participation.

SERVICE LEADER: Kelly Wolf

SPEAKERS: Nancy McMartin and Anne Wilson

STORYTELLER: Kate Hicks

READERS: Ginny Megin, Jennifer Purdie and Mel Rutherford

MUSICIANS: Rachel Derry, Nancy McMartin, Lyla Miklos, Ginny Megin, Jennifer Purdie, Anne Wilson and The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton's Drumming

1. BELL

Music Ministers will get things started in music room and slowly sing and play in the foyer and build the volume so sound can swell in the foyer.

**2. GATHERING MUSIC
#1073 *The Earth Is Our Mother* – Native American (STJ)**

(Service Team assumes positions along with members of the drumming circle and start drumming. Lyla will lead folks in the music 4-5 times in the foyer before the march into the Sanctuary begins.)

LYLA (leading Congregation): The Earth is our Mother,
We must take care of her;
The Earth is our Mother,
We must take care of her;
Hey yunga ho yunga,
Hey yung yung
Hey yunga ho yunga.
Hey yung yung

(Once Lyla reaches her seat she won't sing into the mike anymore but will just sing out. We will feel the room and just sense when folks are ready to end the music.)

3. WELCOME

KELLY: Good Morning!

Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton.

Whoever you are, whomever you love, wherever you are on your journey of faith or search for meaning, today you are one of us, and you are welcome in this house of worship.

We ask that you turn off any cell phones, pagers, blackberrys, or other electronic devices at this time as they interfere with our sound system and your listening enjoyment during the service.

My name is Kelly Wolf and I am your Service Leader this morning. All the members of today's Service Team graduated last summer from the Canadian Unitarian Universalist Leadership School. CUUL School is an annual Canadian Unitarian Council leadership development program. It offers current and emerging congregational leaders an enriching opportunity to deepen their understanding of UU theological heritage as well as reflect upon how UU principles are practiced. Prior to the creation of CUUL School congregants could partake in the UUA's EAGLES program.

I'll now ask my fellow Service Team members to please rise and remain standing as I call their names and acknowledge them.

Kate Hicks.

(Kate stands and remains standing.)

Nancy McMartin.

(Nancy stands and remains standing.)

Ginny Megin.

(Ginny stands and remains standing.)

Lyla Miklos.

(Lyla stands and remains standing.)

Jennifer Purdie.

(Jennifer stands and remains standing.)

Mel Rutherford.

(Mel stands and remains standing.)

and Anne Wilson.

(Anne stands and remains standing.)

I would also like to ask any past CUUL School or EAGLES grads to also rise and remaining standing as our congregation recognizes the wealth of UU leadership skills in our Sanctuary this morning.

(All grads rise.)

Thank you graduates. We truly are blessed. Please be seated.

Today is our annual Earth Day Service. Earth Day, April 22nd, is dedicated to raising awareness on environmental issues, in particular to advocating for sustainable practices. The concept originated in 1970 and marked the beginning of the modern environmental movement. This year marks the 41st anniversary of Earth Day, and UU congregations across the globe are celebrating our planet and taking action to make it a viable place for all people to live, now and into the future.

If you have a personal Joy or Sorrow you would like shared with the congregation paper and pens are available at the table to my right ***[indicate with hand gesture]***. Please write yours out before Nancy McMartin's Reflection ends.

This service is also piped into the lobby if you need to step out of the sanctuary.

After our worship please join our Fellowship in the lobby. If you are a newcomer please visit our newcomers table so you may know us better and take a green mug for your beverage so we may know you better.

4. POURING OF WATERS

KELLY: I invite you all to be comfortable, close your eyes if you wish, and listen to the sound of pouring waters until they disappear.

(Pour the waters . . . and fade)

5. CALL TO WORSHIP By Leslie Pohl-Kosbau

MEL: Flame of fire, spark of the universe that warmed our ancestral hearth – agent of life and death, symbol of truth and freedom. We strive to understand ourselves and our earthly home.

6. LIGHTING OF SANCTUARY AND CHILDREN'S CHAPEL CHALICES

KELLY: We light our chalices to mark our entry into sacred space.

I invite Tim Versteeg and Sandy Lubert, two of our mentors and teachers at CUUL School, to come forward to light our Sanctuary and Children's Chapel Chalice.

(Chalice Lighters light chalices and stay at Chalices until the Unison Chalice Lighting Words have been read.)

7. UNISON CHALICE LIGHTING WORDS

KELLY: Please join in reading our Unison Chalice Lighting Words, found in your Order of Service.

May this candle be our light of friendship and love.

Thank you chalice lighters.

8. STORY FOR ALL AGES **Adapted from *The Secret of Water* by Masaru Emoto**

KATE: Children and youth come and sit on the carpet here in front of me as we share in our Story for All Ages.

[Slide One – Front Cover]

Today we are going to read from a book called *The Secret of Water* written Doctor Emoto.

[Slide Two]

Did you know that water has a secret?

[Slide Three]

Believe it or not, every thought or feeling you have affects everything around you, like when you smile at someone and they smile back at you. When you share a joyful feeling you pass on positive energy and can help create joy in other people. Your feelings don't just affect people though; they can affect the entire planet. You are so powerful that your feelings and thoughts can affect everything on earth. Even Water!

[Slide Four]

But how? Well, Water has been around for a very very long time. It is older than the dinosaurs! Because of the cycle of water we are still using the same water that once rained down on the dinosaurs millions of years ago. We drink the same water the T. rex and triceratops drank! Even raindrops are old. It takes 50 years for a rain drop to fall from the sky and become water on earth. Most of our planet is covered in water, but we can only drink a little bit of it. Much of earth's water is too salty, too frozen or too

polluted for us to use.

[Slide Five]

We use water in lots of ways everyday. When you brush your teeth, take a bath or even flush the toilet. In just one day we use almost 100 gallons of water!

[Slide Six]

Water can do some amazing things! Water is the only natural thing that can be a liquid (like a lake or a glass of water), a solid (like ice and snow) and a gas (like steam and mist). Water has the power to dissolve or melt almost anything from a lump of sugar to a piece of paper. And water has a surface tension that is so high many lighter insects can walk on water.

[Slide Seven]

Did you know that most living things are made of water? Your body is more than half full of water. We have so much water in our bodies, that we can't live without it. You could live without food for over a month, but only a few days without drinking water. The water inside our bodies is connected to all the water in the rest of the world. Our connection to water is where the secret is.

[Slide Eight]

Did you know that each snowflake is different? Each snowflake is formed by vibrations and vibrations can be affected by good and bad energy in the world. Good vibrations make the water form into all kinds of beautiful crystals. Bad vibrations don't form any crystals at all. Dr. Emoto tested this by exposing some water to happy words, music and pictures and some to sad words, music and pictures. When he froze the water and looked at it the happy water was a beautiful crystal and the sad water was not.

[Slide Nine]

So you can change the whole world with just your feelings and thoughts. If you think happy thoughts of love and thanks, the water will know and somewhere in the world another person or animal will fill up on your positive energy. Water is such an amazing gift. It nourishes our bodies, grows our food and keeps us clean. So say thank you and send your love to all the water in the world.

And that is the secret of water!

9. CHILDREN'S RECEPTIONAL HYMN
***As You Go* (Suzelle Lynch and John Ruben Piirainen)**

KATE: Please rise in body or spirit.

Elizabeth Beckett please receive The Children's Chapel Chalice. Children and youth please line up behind Elizabeth.

Everyone, please join us in singing our Children's Recessional Hymn, found in your order of service.

CONGREGATION: *As you go may joy surround you, as you go, go in peace. Know our love is with you always, as you go, as you go.*

KELLY: Please be seated.

10. READING

***I've Known Rivers* by Langston Hughes**

JENNIFER: Our reading today comes from Langston Hughes.

I've known rivers:

*I've known rivers ancient as the world
and older than the flow of human blood in human veins.*

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.

I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.

I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.

*I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln
went down to New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy
bosom turn all golden in the sunset.*

I've known rivers:

Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

11. WORSHIP IN MUSIC

***Mother I Feel You* (Windsong Diane Martin) [Hymn #1070 in STJ – Verse Two Only]**

(Rachel starts playing piano and Ginny starts drumming.)

LYLA: Mother I hear you in the river song.
Eternal waters flowing on and on.

He ya He ya He ya ya.
He ya He ya ho.
He ya He ya He ya He ya
He ya ho.

(repeat)

12. REFLECTION

Ripples by Nancy McMartin

NANCY: Good morning! My name is Nancy McMartin and my reflection this morning, or “Homilini” as Anne Wilson so charmingly puts it, is about the ripple effect in our lives.

I go to Toronto one day a week to help my daughter Heather with my grandsons Hugh, age 5, and Will, 15 months. One evening after the kids were in bed I made the insightful comment to my daughter that her husband, my son-in-law was a nerd. At home, reflecting on my endless tact and compassion I realized that I would need to apologize. The next week I did just that, to which my daughter responded, “Mom, I don’t remember you saying that, but David is kind of nerdy and I am too.” I vigorously defended her lack of ‘nerdishness’. The next week when I went to Toronto my daughter told me that she was so impressed by my apology that she had done the same thing with a friend of hers, someone she felt she had offended. Who knows how far that particular ripple actually went?

One ripple that I can gauge concerns my mother and a church volunteer named Joan. My mother is very introverted and a little bit demented. She lives in a nursing home and on Thursday afternoons at 2pm Joan comes to visit for about an hour. Joan brings homemade cookies and they have tea. I am sure my mother regales her each week with the same stories of hardship from her childhood. This caring soul who comes is now considered by my often friendless Mother to be her friend. I am sure that Joan gets back from giving since she’s been coming for almost 2 years. Our family gets back too, we know that someone else is listening to the stories, someone else’s name is on the calendar proudly displayed, someone else is helping to fill those long days. We are grateful!

When I think of a ripple I think of a pebble dropping into water and the concentric circles that come out from it. That thought brings to mind a wind-blown seed causing corn to grow, maize for our native peoples. I also think of a block of stone and an idea and possibly a couple of aliens to start the pyramids.

Terry Fox’s physiotherapy led to a monumental run. All tremendous achievements, all started humbly. It only takes one seed to start a garden, one stone block and possible a Martian to build a pyramid and one hesitant step to begin a marathon.

Recently I was reading an article in the Spec about Graham Kerr. I used to love to watch him, The Galloping Gourmet, a wonderful accent and cute to boot. He is now 77

years old. My how HE has aged. At any rate at his church in Washington he met with a small group of congregants who wanted to know what they could do to help their community be happier and feel hope in the future. They decided to build a community garden on their church property. Their first harvest, 180 lbs of it, went first to the needy in their own congregation and after that to Food banks.

Hopefully in the April newsletter you noticed a Poverty Project initiative from the Social justice Committee. We are asking you to plant more, harvest more, acquire more produce to come in Sunday mornings in August and September to be distributed among ourselves and Neighbour to Neighbour. One can sometimes have too many zucchinis and tomatoes. Perhaps you can help in this small way.

I have one more story from my own life before I wrap up. My daughter, grandson, and I one summer morning started to walk along the Belt line near their condo on the way to the playground. I was smiling or greeting each person we passed. Heather admonished my hillbilly hick self for doing this as chic, suave Torontonians did not greet one another in such gauche ways. By the time we reached the playground she had to admit that about half of the passersby had responded. Such a small thing, a smile, a nod, a greeting and who knows how far that ripples in someone else's life.

Mother Teresa said "If you can't feed a hundred people then feed just one" and "Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person". We are capable of saying something or doing something that will ripple happily in another's life. So whatever that thing is that best suits you and your life circumstances, I hope that you do it today and tomorrow and maybe that one thing will become more things and at the end of it all you will have accomplished great things.

13. HYMN
#1064 *Blue Boat Home* (STJ)

KELLY: Please rise in body or spirit and let us join together in worship by singing hymn number 1064 from your aqua hymnal entitled *Blue Boat Home*.

(Lyla will help lead the congregation in this hymn.)

CONGREGATION: *Though below me, I feel no motion standing on the mountains and plains. Far away from the rolling ocean still my dry land heart can say: I've been sailing all my life now, never harbour or port I have known. The wide universe is the ocean I travel and the earth is my blue boat home.*

Sun my sail and moon my rudder as I ply the starry sea, leaning over the edge in wonder, casting questions into the deep. Drifting here with my ship's companions, all we kindred pilgrim souls, making our way by the lights of heavens in our beautiful blue boat home.

I give thanks to the waves upholding me, Hail the great winds urging me on, Greeting the infinite sea before me, sing the sky my sailor's song: I was born upon the fathoms, never harbour or port have I known. The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.

14. JOYS AND SORROWS

KELLY: This is our time as a church community to come together to celebrate and grieve with our fellow congregants, supporting each other through both our struggles and our victories.

During the musical meditation, instead of lighting candles, you are invited to come forward, and place a stone in one of the water basin located in front of me. Then we will join together in a time of silence and reflection.

These are the Joys and Sorrows we share today.

(Read written joys and sorrows.)

15. MEDITATION IN WORDS

***God Is A River* by Peter Mayer and *Rocks and Water* by Ginny Megin**

ANNE: Our meditative words come from the song *God Is A River* by Peter Mayer.

In the ever-shifting water of the river of this life
I was swimming, seeking comfort; I was wrestling waves to find
A boulder I could cling to, a stone to hold me fast
Where I might let the fretful water of this river 'round me pass

And so I found an anchor, a blessed resting place
A trusty rock I called my savior, for there I would be safe
From the river and its dangers, and I proclaimed my rock divine
And I prayed to it "protect me" and the rock replied

God is a river, not just a stone
God is a wild, raging rapids
And a slow, meandering flow
God is a deep and narrow passage
And a peaceful, sandy shoal
God is the river, swimmer
So let go

Still I clung to my rock tightly with conviction in my arms
Never looking at the stream to keep my mind from thoughts of harm
But the river kept on coming, kept on tugging at my legs
Till at last my fingers faltered, and I was swept away

So I'm going with the flow now, these relentless twists and bends
Acclimating to the motion, and a sense of being led
And this river's like my body now, it carries me along
Through the ever-changing scenes and by the rocks that sing this song

God is a river, not just a stone
God is a wild, raging rapids
And a slow, meandering flow
God is a deep and narrow passage
And a peaceful, sandy shoal
God is the river, swimmer
So let go

GINNY: Think about the interaction of rocks and water. Water softens the rough edges of rocks as the waters of loving friends and the passing of time smooth our pained feelings. Some of us may have sorrows so heavy we'd like to take a chunk of the Canadian Shield and drop it in Lake Ontario. Some of us may feel embarrassed that we are so flustered about what should be a niggling little problem, we hardly feel like we have permission to drop a pebble in water. Go for it. Our joys too can be expressed by dropping a rock in water. The ripples spread our joy, they shout to the world like rays of sunshine. Sometimes our feelings are like sand. A lot of small things that add up and weigh us down. We invite you who feel this way to let go of these concerns today and add your sand to the water, to raise our water table for all.

16. MEDITATION IN MUSIC
Sail Across The Water (Jane Siberry)

(The Musicians will now present the Meditation in Music and congregants will then proceed to put rocks into the water basins.)

LYLA: *Love is trembling,
Trembling like the little bird we hold within our hands
Love is bending,
Bending towards the worried brow
Here let me wipe away your tears
Love is kneeling
Above the broken body the ever-upturned face
Love is missing
All the words are broken,
help me I cannot find my way
No, I can't
I need you love
come on love*

ALL: *Will you sail across the water and lay your wisdom down?
And love will you sail 'cross the water and tell us what you found?
And love will you sail 'cross the water and hold us when we drown?
And love will you sail 'cross the water?
Is anybody listening?*

LYLA: *Love is trembling,
Trembling like the leaves above the baby's bed
Love is streaming,
Streaming with the tears that we cannot seem to shed
Love is frozen,
Frozen in the figure they just pulled from the subway grate
Love is burning,
Burning with the anger that we all feel
Against which we kneel
Our faces pressed into the lap of loneliness
Come on love*

ALL: *Will you sail across the water and lay your wisdom down?
And love will you sail 'cross the water and tell us what you found?
And love will you sail 'cross the water and hold us when we drown?
And love will sail 'cross the water?*

*Are we not willing? Are we not trying?
Are we not trusting? Are we not crying?
Are we not children? Are we not stumbling?
Are we not wondering? Are we not?*

LYLA: *Oh.*

ALL: *Sail 'cross the water and lay your wisdom down?
And love will sail 'cross the water and tell us what you found?
And love will sail 'cross the water and hold us when we drown?
And love will sail 'cross the water?*

*Are we not willing? Are we not bending?
Are we not frozen? Are we not trembling?
Are we not children? Are we not trying?
Are we not wondering? Are we not?*

LYLA: *Oh . . .*

*Love is trembling
Love is trembling, yeah yeah yeah
Love is trembling*

(All Musicians stay on the dias for the silence and don't start to move back to their seats until Kelly starts to place the last rock into her bowl.)

17. MEDITATION IN SILENCE

(Pour more water into basin once the music ends.)

(Wait at least one minute, two minutes if possible.)

(Pour water.)

18. ONE LAST ROCK

(Place the "Last Rock")

(Musicians take their seats.)

KELLY: We placed one last rock in the basin for all those joys and sorrows, which remain, in our hearts until the time comes to speak them aloud. Whatever our level of sharing, may this community be a blessing and support to us all.

19. UNISON WORDS OF SUPPORT

***Trembling With Joy* by Inuit Shaman Uvavnuk**

KELLY: Please join me in reading our unison words of support found in your order of service.

CONGREGATION: *The great sea has set me in motion, set me adrift, moving me like a weed in a river. The sky and the strong wind have moved the spirit inside me, till I am carried away trembling with joy.*

20. HYMN

#123 *Spirit of Life* (STLT)

KELLY: Please rise in body or spirit and join together in singing hymn number #123 from your grey hymnal entitled *Spirit of Life*.

CONGREGATION: Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

21. REFLECTION

***You are a Steward of Water* by Anne Wilson**

ANNE: You are a living earth. You are a balance of rocks and water, minerals and ocean. Your atoms have all been here since the big bang, and your water has existed for as long as there has been water on earth.

65% of your body is water and that water is 3.9 billion years old. 65% of your body is 3.9 billion years old. When the earth was a flaming ball of molten magma water vapour hissed out of the very rock itself. 326 million, trillion gallons of water steamed out of the hot liquid stone of our planet. That is all the water that has ever been here. It has been gaseous, solid and liquid. That water is in you right now.

The water in your body was the primordial ooze that made life on this planet possible. The first, vulnerable, wobbly life form on this earth used your water to spring forth. The first green thing used your water to survive. There is no life on earth without water: the very same water that is in you right now.

Your water has been in dinosaurs and cave men, Pharaohs and slaves, prophets and murderers. It has been in polar bears and ice caps, parrots and rain forests, pitcher plants and pine trees. Your water has been wind, rain, clouds, rivers, lakes, oceans and tsunamis. Your water has been babies and old people. Your water has been clay and wine and roses. Your water has been in the north, the south, the east and the west. Your water has been everywhere and everything.

Your water is in your cells, between your cells, in your blood, in your brain, in your spinal column and in your tears. Like all of earth's water some is fresh and most is salty. Like all of earth's water it is full of rocks: copper, calcium, magnesium, selenium, manganese, iron, sodium, potassium, sulphur, cobalt, zinc and chromium. Like all of earth's water your water is part of the water cycle: it evaporates off your skin; it gets flushed down your toilet; it gets breathed out with every breath; then it becomes rivers, lakes, clouds and rain again. Your water makes shapes in the clouds. Your water crunches underfoot on crisp snowy mornings. Your water rains down on all of us.

Your water requires constant replenishing. You get most of your water through food and drink and a small amount through your skin and lungs. Your water moves through you quickly, being constantly replaced by new water. Sixty five percent of your body is being constantly replaced. Your water is borrowed not owned.

Others will consume your water as you have consumed theirs. The generations that come after you will consume your water, bathe in your water, be refreshed by your water, walk in the soft rain of your water, and be baptized with your water. All these things have happened already. The water in you today has been consumed by others, bathed in by others, rained down on others, baptized others. It has been used to comfort the dying, clean up the new born, and water crops. Life on earth has played in your water and will go on playing in your water.

Your water is the source of all life on earth and all living on earth depends on it; it is sacred beyond measure. Your water is eternal but not eternally yours. It comes to you having already created, sustained and enriched all life on earth. It passes through you, giving you life, breath, blood and tears. And it leaves you, to continue on its way, creating, sustaining and enriching the lives of others.

Water is constantly moving and moving through this world. Melting and dripping on peaks, rushing down mountains, babbling in streams, sinking into the earth, shooting up maple trees, condensing on leaves, whipping in the wind, swirling in the clouds, drifting in snowflakes, spurting out of whales, splashing in children's sand pails, boiling in lobster pots, and eaten dripping with butter.

Water is now moving through you. Water is rushing in veins, pumping through your heart, leaching out of your pores, and misting forth with every breath. You are part of the water cycle. You consume water. You recycle and transform water. You add things to it and you take things away from it. You transform juice to tears, spinach to urine, and meatloaf to sweat. Your water returns to the ground, to the lake, to the sky.

You are part of the interdependent web of water. On earth the interdependent web of water is everywhere: in the oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, ice caps, and glaciers. It is in the water table, in the plants that that cover half the land, in the countless billions of animals, in the countless billions of sea creatures, and in the seven billion other people like you. Water is continually moving and connecting the web of being. Water flows through each of us on its journey through time.

We share the same water. We water our crops with each other's sweat. We drink each other's tears. We wash our babies in each other's breath. We carry our water and our water carries us. You carry within you 3.9 billion years of the interdependent web of life. You are a steward of water. You are a steward of life on earth.

22. HYMN
#210 *Wade In The Water* (STLT)

KELLY: Please rise in body or spirit and join together in singing hymn number #210 from your grey hymnal entitled *Wade In The Water*.

CONGREGATION: Wade in the water,
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's gonna trouble the water.

See that band all dressed in white.
God's gonna trouble the water.
The leader looks like an Israelite.
God's gonna trouble the water.

Wade in the water,
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's gonna trouble the water.

See that band all dressed in red.
God's gonna trouble the water.
It looks like the band that Moses led.
God's gonna trouble the water.

Wade in the water,
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's gonna trouble the water.

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS

JENNIFER: Our announcements are part of our life as a church community. Please make a point of reading all the announcements in your order of service following today's service. We have a few announcements, which you won't find in your Order of Service.

(Read announcements.)

1. Unitarian Universalists all over are thinking about water justice. As UUs, we are called to respect the interdependent web of all existence and water is a common thread. For Earth Day 2011, UU Ministry for Earth is asking congregations to celebrate the sacred waters that sustain us all and to commit to 40 days of actions that will make our world more just.

UUs will fulfill commitments to small and large daily actions over the course of 40 days, from Sunday, April 17, to Thursday, May 26, knowing that our choices affect many aspects of global environmental justice. When 40 people in one congregation make 40-day commitments during this 40/40 for Earth Challenge, that congregation will be included in the roll of participating congregations.

An individual's commitment for 40 days makes a real difference, and it is only amplified by doing this in community. More than 150 congregations registered participation in Earth Day in 2010 – let's make it even greater this year!

This year's Call to Action for sacred waters includes extensive resources and suggested actions for participating in the 40/40 for Earth Challenge and bringing your water justice ministry beyond church walls.

Please read your order of service to find out more details about the 40/40 Earth Challenge. There will be a sign up sheet in the foyer for all congregants that want to be a part of the 40/40 challenge.

2. We ask that you take time to notice and acknowledge the many volunteers who make today's service, religious education and hospitality possible.

24. OFFERING WORDS
We Get When We Give by Ginny Megin

GINNY: Now we are going to, hopefully, separate some of your money from you.
(smile)

What do we have to give? The question could be: What do we **have** to give? The first thing we are giving this morning is our presence. By putting our bodies in this space in this time, we are saying that we are part of this community, we belong, and it belongs to us. We are giving a part of ourselves just by being here.

How much do we have to give? This is not a question with a dollar figure answer. How much do we have to give can also mean how much of ourselves do we “give” to this church? How connected do we allow ourselves to be?

I believe that we give as much or as little as we believe we can or we should. I believe that what we give to our church, to our loved ones, to our community, is strongly affected by whether we believe we live in abundance, or scarcity. In truth, we live in great abundance, materially, relative to most of the world.

The question that intrigues me is how abundantly do we live in the rest of our lives, in our spiritual and emotional lives? Sometimes I wonder if there is a direct correlation between material and spiritual wealth, like the expression that it's harder for a rich man to pass through the gates of heaven than to thread a camel through the eye of a needle.

Today I'm inviting us to relax in this community, and feel the abundance of goodwill we create and have for each other while we are here. Today we are not having ushers to pass the baskets around, we are an organic community, with everything we need sitting on the pews right now. There are baskets placed under the seats of the last chair in the front row of the three sections of the church. We will pass the baskets and goodwill to each other.

Feel free to look the person you are passing the basket to in the eye. If you are both OK with it, you can even touch each other, or have a hug. Think about how this can be a symbol for the world's community, for a world of connection between all humans. When the basket reaches the last person, I'm asking that person to, please not walk out with it. But bring it to the front and we can share our riches within and outside of our community.

We will now receive our offering while we listen to our Music Ministers.

25. OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Color Purple (Allee Willis, Brenda Russell, and Stephen Bray)

LYLA: God is inside me and everyone else
That was or ever will be.
I came into this world with God
And when I finally looked inside
I found it.

God is the flowers and everything else
That was or every will be.
And when you feel the truth so real
And when you love the way you feel,
You found it,
Just as sure as moonlight bless the night.

Rising like a sun
Is the hope that set us free
Your heartbeat make my heartbeat
When we share love.

ALL: Like a blade of corn
Like a honey bee
Like a waterfall
All of part of me.

Like the color purple
Where do it come from?
Now my eyes are open.
Look what God has done?

It takes a grain of love
To make a mighty tree
Even the smallest voice
Can make a harmony.

Like a drop of water
Keep the river high,
There are miracles for you and I.

Like a blade of corn
Like a honey bee
Like a waterfall
All of part of me.

Like the color purple
Where do it come from?
Now my eyes are open.
Look what God has done?

LYLA: I don't think us feel old at all
I think that this is the youngest us ever felt

ALL: Amen!

(All service team members remain on the dias until the Postlude from here on in.)

26. OFFERTORY HYMN OF GRATITUDE
Hymn #402 – From You I Receive – STLT (Joseph and Nathan Segal)

GINNY: As our offering is brought forward please join in singing our Hymn of Gratitude found in your order of service.

CONGREGATION: *From you I receive, to you I give, together we share, and from this we live.*

27. CHALICE EXTINGUISHED/GOING FORTH
By Thich N'Hat Hanh

MEL: I kindly ask Tim Versteeg and Sandy Lubert to come forward to extinguish our chalice as I share with you our going forth words.

Water flows from high in the mountains. Water runs deep in the Earth. Miraculously, water comes to us, and sustains all life. Water and sun green these plants. When the rain of compassion falls, even a desert becomes an immense, green ocean.

28. POSTLUDE
Boom De Ah Dah aka The Discovery Channel Song
(Adapted from the old folk standard *Bomfiara.*)

KELLY: Please rise in body or spirit and join us in singing our Postlude. Lyrics can be found in your order of service or projected against the wall.

LYLA: If you have a drum or a noisemaker, please play them loud and strong as we sing this song.

CONGREGATION: *I love the mountains*
I love the clear blue skies
I love big bridges
I love when great whites fly
I love the whole world
And all its sights and sounds

*Boom De Ah Dah, Boom De Ah Dah
Boom De Ah Dah, Boom De Ah Dah*

*I love the oceans
I love the sun so bright
I love crustaceans
I love the stars at night
I love the whole world
And all its craziness*

*Boom De Ah Dah, Boom De Ah Dah
Boom De Ah Dah, Boom De Ah Dah*

*I love tornadoes
I love arachnids
I love hot magma
I love the giant squids
I love the whole world
It's such a brilliant place*

*Boom De Ah Dah, Boom De Ah Dah
Boom De Ah Dah, Boom De Ah Dah*

(Service Team starts marching off the stage and keeps repeating the chorus until the entire service team exits the Sanctuary and enters the foyer.)

KELLY: Please join our Fellowship in the lobby. If you are a newcomer please visit our newcomers table so you may know us better and take a green mug for your beverage so we may know you better. And make sure you sign up for our 40/40 Earth Day Challenge.

29. FELLOWSHIP HOUR