

**Order of Service – September 13, 2020 – Unitarian Universalist Church West**  
**“Blessings Abound” with Rev. Suzelle Lynch and friends**

1. **Prelude** "Return to the Heart" by David Lanz, performed by Jennifer Nicolosi
2. **Welcome** – The Rev. Suzelle Lynch

3. **Hymn #361** – “Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”  
words & music by Louise Ruspini;  
performed by Ruben Piirainen, Music  
Director and Jennifer Nicolosi, Lead Music  
Director

1. **Enter, rejoice, and come in.** (2x)  
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.
2. Open your ears to the song. (2x)  
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.
3. Open your hearts ev'ryone. (2x)  
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.
4. Don't be afraid of some change. (2x)  
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.
5. Enter, rejoice, and come in. (2x)  
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

4. **Chalice Lighting**- Dave Cicero, Director of  
Lifespan Religious Education

***Each time we light the chalice  
we renew our commitment to our  
Unitarian Universalist faith.***

***With the spark of a match, we make it new again –  
as fresh and surprising as the first day  
we encountered this spiritual community and realized we were home.  
We light this chalice for Renewal.***

5. **Blessings for the New West Gateway** – Rev. Suzelle and Dave Cicero
6. **Hymn #131** – “Love Will Guide Us” music-traditional, arr. Betty Wylder, words by Sally Rogers;  
performed by Ruben Piirainen and Jennifer Nicolosi
  1. Love will guide us, peace has tried us, hope inside us will lead the way on the road from greed to giving. Love will guide us through the hard night.
  2. If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot speak before thousands, you can give from deep within you. You can change the world with your love.
  3. Love will guide us, peace has tried us, hope inside us will lead the way on the road from greed to giving. Love will guide us through the hard night.
7. **Blessings of Air** - Rev. Suzelle and Dave Cicero
8. **Blessings of Fire – Blessing the UUCW Chalice** - Rev. Suzelle and Dave Cicero
9. **Hymn #1008** – “When Our Heart is in a Holy Place” words & music by Joyce Poley; performed by Ruben Piirainen and Jennifer Nicolosi

**Chorus:** When our heart is in a holy place (2x), We are bless'd with love and amazing grace,  
When our heart is in a holy place.

**Verses:**

1. When we trust the wisdom in each of us, Ev'ry color, ev'ry creed and kind,  
And we see our faces in each other's eyes -- Then our heart is in a holy place.
2. When we tell our story from deep inside, And we listen with a loving mind,  
And we hear our voices in each other's words -- Then our heart is in a holy place.
3. When we share the silence of sacred space, And the God of our Heart stirs within,  
And we feel the power of each other's faith -- Then our heart is in a holy place.

10. **Blessings of Water – Water Communion** – Rev. Suzelle and Dave Cicero
11. **Blessings of Earth – Labyrinth** - Rev. Suzelle and Dave Cicero
12. **Closing Words** – Rev. Suzelle and Dave Cicero
13. **Postlude** – "Can't Buy Me Love" by Lennon/McCartney; performed by Jennifer Nicolosi

6

**We give praise and gratitude to the earth,**

Praise and gratitude to the dust of stars that formed into the body of our home planet, the stardust that still gives solidity to our bones and flesh.

We honor the rocks and their long, slow cycles of transformation into life and back to seabed, sand, stone and mountain.

We give thanks to the living soil, for it feeds and sustains the lives of animals and plants that grow, run, leap, and fly on Earth!

We bless the earth beyond us and within us, Blessed be earth.

1

**WELCOME!**

2

**BLESSINGS FOR THE GATEWAY**

May this Gateway always be open – welcoming in the new light of beginnings and beginners.

May this Gateway welcome in people of all ages, all sizes, the big and the small; those who walk or run or skip with joy; those who step more slowly, and those who roll in on wheels!

May this Gateway be rooted in the good green earth, may it be a portal that invites in the blooming flowers and green grasses to renew us and remind us always to care for our precious planet.

When evening shadows fall, may this Gateway illuminate the path to our sacred space – helping us find our way through the mystery to meaning.

And may this Gateway always open both inward and outward – inviting all of us and all of our neighbors to come in for community, caring, and compassion and sending us forth to use our hearts and hands to seek justice and serve the greater good.



5

This water we share holds the mystery and miracle of life. **May this water be blessed** by the love of this community.

May our own water-filled bodies be blessed with life-energy to carry us through our days, and blessed with compassion to fuel our work for justice.

May our home, this blue-green planet we cherish, with its mountains & plains, rivers, lakes, oceans and icecaps, be blessed by the Source which embraces and sustains all life;

We offer our praise and gratitude for all the waters of the world – and for the sacred waters here in our common bowl.

4

**We bless and praise the fire,** the sun's fire that fuels all life on earth, the radiant heat and light that is the source of energy for all beings, from the tiniest algae to the towering cottonwood, from the worm to the elephant.

Even as we fear the awesome power of wildfires to destroy – as they are doing so rampantly now in California,

we give thanks for the way fire cleanses and renews the land, and we ask for help in living with the power of fire.

We give thanks for hearth fires, and chalice flames, which warm us in the cold and give our lives a heart-center.

May our hearts be open to the wisdom of fire, and may the flames teach us how to dance, how to transform our rage into radiant action. Blessed be the fire.

3

**Oh, Air, breath of the living earth, we praise you!**

We give thanks to you for our lives, for our breath.

We give thanks for the great winds that soar over the earth, and we praise the storm that brings the rains, the water of life, to the land.

May our minds be as clear and open as the air; may we learn from the winds how to soar across barriers and sweep away obstacles.

May we learn to be good guardians and friends of the air, and may the air bless us with deep breaths and deep peace.