Grounded in love, UUCW is a joyful community committed to spiritual growth, inclusion, and justice.

Unitarian Universalist Church West – Order of Service – November 23, 2025

"The Sacredness of Ordinary Things: Cultivating Gratitude"

Rev. Jill Braithwaite

1. **Prelude** – "We Sing of Thanksgiving," based on the Welsh tune *The Ash Grove*, arr. by Dale Wood - performed by the UUCW Adult Choir, with Jess Hamel, pianist, and Ruben Piirainen, director
2. **Welcome** – Board of Trustees Representative Nick Clark
3. **Testimonial on Bridges to Community** – Susan Endes
4. **Call to Worship** – "Praying" by Mary Oliver - Rev. Jill
5. **Chalice Lighting** – Rev. Jill and Nick Clark

   We light this chalice
   in gratitude for the gifts of this day—
   the breath that sustains us,
   the people who companion us,
   the love that shapes our living.

6. **Singing Together** - #71 "In the Spring with Plow and Harrow" by John Andrew Storey and David Dawson
7. **Story for All Ages -** *Finding Grateful* by Dianne White – Dave Cicero, DLRE
8. **Children's Recessional -** "As You Go, May Joy Surround You," by Piirainen/Lynch

   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.

9. **Joys and Concerns** – Rev. Jill Braithwaite
10. **Prayer for Transgender Day of Remembrance** by Amy G.S.A. Brooks – Rev. Jill
11. **Singing Meditation** (see insert) - "We Will Carry Each Other" by Soren Austenfeld (from *Sing Out Love*), soloists Jess Hamel and Gina Barton
12. **Reading** – "Magic All Around Us" by Howard Thurman, from *Meditations of the Heart* - read by Mary Nordhagen
13. **Choir Anthem** - "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter and Folliott Sandford Pierpont, performed by UUCW Adult Choir
14. **Reflection** - "The Sacredness of Ordinary Things: Cultivating Gratitude" - Rev. Jill Braithwaite
15. **Offering Words** – Nick Clark
16. **Offertory Music** – "Reverie" by Teresa Carreño, performed by Ruben Piirainen, Director of Music

Our Split the Plate partner for November is Tribal Elder Food Box program. How to Give:

IN-PERSON: Loose cash and contributions (checks/cash) labeled "split" will be shared this month's Split the Plate partner organization.

ONLINE: Text "UUCW" to 73256 - OR – go to uucw.org and click "Donate"

MAIL: Mail a Contribution to UU Church West – 13001 W North Ave, Brookfield, WI 53005

17. **Offering Dedication**

    To the work of this community,
    which is to ground ourselves in love and joy
    and to act for inclusion and justice,
    we dedicate ourselves and these our offerings.

18. **Congregational Singing** - #128 “For All That Is Our Life” by Bruce Findlow and Patrick Rickey
19. **Closing Words and Chalice Extinguishing** – Words by John O’Donohue - Rev. Jill and Nick Clark
20. **Postlude** – “Gavotte” by Cécile Chamina de - performed by Ruben Piirainen

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS:

Ushers: Kathy Lake
Greeters: Julieann Gaetano, Carolou Nelsen, Joyce Cable
Newcomer Table: Anne Deahl
Coffee Volunteers: Cathy DeMers
Chalice Table Decoration: Cathy Murphy
Friday Office Helper: