



Our spiritual practice for December is **Presence**.

*“At the end of the day: do others feel loved in your presence?
This is the spiritual bottom line.”*

~Mastin Kipp

Sunday, December 8, 2024

“Presents and Presence”

with Rev. Mary Gear

We explore the spiritual practice of “presence” in a month that focuses on presents. What are the gifts of presence, and how might we find them in this season?

Prelude *Troy Fisher (he/him)*

Morning Song *Congregation*

Hymn #347 “Gather the Spirit”

Words & Music: Jim Scott

Welcome *Whitney Godby (she/her)*

Lighting the Chalice *Whitney Godby*

“Suspended Between” by Linda Barnes

Lighting the Second Advent Candle *Rev. Mary Gear (she/her)*

ritual adapted from Rev. Lyn Cox

Opening Words *Rev. Mary Gear*

“To Remind Ourselves What Is Real”

by Elena Westbrook

Opening Hymn *Congregation*

Hymn #83 “Winds Be Still”

Words: Richard S. Kimball

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Story for All *Rev. Sara Lewis (she/her)*

The Gift of the Magi

Musical Interlude *Troy Fisher*

Share the Plate Offering *Whitney Godby*

Offertory *OUUC Choir*

“Deck the Halls”

Welsh traditional carol, arranged by John Rutter

Ritual of Sharing From the Heart *Rev. Mary Gear*

Prayerful Practice *Rev. Mary Gear*

Musical Response *OUUC Choir*

“Earth Song”

Words & Music: Frank Ticheli

Reading *Whitney Godby*

“Crystal of Creation” by Rev. Tess Baumberger

Part 1: Everywhere, Always *Rev. Mary Gear*

Musical Interlude *Troy Fisher*

Reflection on Presence *Whitney Godby*

Part 2: Presents and Presence *Rev. Mary Gear*

Closing Hymn *Congregation*

Hymn #88 “Calm Soul of All Things”

Words: Matthew Arnold / Music: Thomas Tallis

At OUUC, masks are welcome and optional. Please join us online if you don't feel well.

Kindly put your cell phones into Airplane Mode to help us ensure a meaningful experience for all in attendance online and in-person.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the sanctuary at the tech desk.

Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice

“Growing out of Our Comfort” by Melissa Jeter

Rev. Mary Gear

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection questions:

- How (or when or where) do you experience the holy?
 - Is there something that helps you remember what is sacred to you?
 - Have you ever experienced presence?
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Today's After-Service Forum (11:30 am): Allyship Skill-Builder

Join Rev. Sara and others to practice skills of support and intervention when we encounter bias and bullying. Be an ally!

Next Sunday, December 15, 2024:

“In The Presence of Mystery” with Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee

Our very presence on this earth is part of the mystery we are engulfed in. Let us spend time recognizing the wonder of being alive, and being present to this gift.

Dec. 15 After-Service Forum (11:30 am): Welcome and Inclusion Training

Join Rev. Sara for a discussion and training on how we can live our mission to welcome and include everyone.

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for November and December is CARE, which stands for Collaborative Association for Reintegration and Education.

The mission of CARE is to support community transformation by working to address all forms of discrimination against those who have been incarcerated or detained, with a particular focus on affected youth. They fulfill this mission by connecting impacted individuals to community resources and advocating to increase public understanding and awareness of issues related to the criminal legal system, reintegration, and recovery.

If you write a check, please note "pledge" if it is a pledge payment. Other donations will benefit the Share the Plate program.

- Checks can be mailed to at: 2306 East End St NW, Olympia, WA 98502
 - Donate online at <https://onrealm.org/OUUC/give/offering>
 - Donate by text: Text "OUUC offering" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.
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The Stewardship Team is offering several Gather, Grow, & Guide Sessions to discuss, in community, our relationship to OUUC. These gatherings will provide the opportunity to gather in the homes of congregation members for light refreshments and meaningful conversations about what OUUC means to each of us. During these small group sessions, we'll share stories, build connections, and deepen our sense of community. For those onsite, you can connect with one of the Stewardship team members in the Commons after the service. Otherwise, find the link to register here: <https://www.ouuc.org/gather-grow-and-guide/>

You may have heard the exciting news that we will be adding a second Sunday morning service starting on January 12. We'll open our doors wide to make room for everyone. For more information: <https://www.ouuc.org/2services/>

Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update: <https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>

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