

OOS Paul Graves Grace and Wisdom at the Intersection of Faith and Politics 9-29-24

Welcome and Announcements

COM: Family Promise

Prelude: Beneath the Stars by Martha Mier

Opening Words: *Spirit of life, be present with us* by the Rev. Kathy A. Huff (93 words)

Spirit of life, be present with us this hour. Join us today as we gather in a wider search for truth and purpose. In this quest, may we greet one another with open hearts and minds; may we inspire each other to consider new questions and seek deeper meaning; and may we cultivate wisdom and compassion. Let all who enter this sanctuary see a welcome face, hear a kind word, and find comfort in this community. And may all that is done and said here today be in service to love and justice.

Lighting the Chalice: *The chalice lit amongst us is a beacon* by Rev. Debra Faulk (48 words)

The chalice lit amongst us is a beacon
A beacon of hope, in a world in crisis
A beacon of possibility, made manifest in community
A beacon of warmth through our interconnections
A beacon of light illuminating our shared wisdom
A beacon of connection by our being together.

Hymn: 360: Here We Have Gathered

Reciting the Covenant: Love is the spirit of this church and service its law. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love, and to help one another.

Candles of Joy and Concern

Wisdom Story: Luke 5:36-39?

Meditation: *The Mystery Never Leaves You Alone* by John O'Donohue (244 words)

It is strange to be here. The mystery never leaves you alone. Behind your image, below your words, above your thoughts, the silence of another world waits. A world lives within you. No one else can bring you news of this inner world. Through our voices, we bring out sound from the mountain beneath our soul. These sounds are words.

...Everyone is an artist. Each person brings out sound out of silence and coaxes the invisible to become visible. ...An unknown world aspires towards reflection. Words are the oblique mirrors which hold your thought. You gaze into these word mirrors and catch glimpses of meaning, belonging, shelter. Behind their bright surfaces is the dark and the silence. Words are like the god Janus, they face inwards and outwards at once.

If we become addicted to the external our interiority will haunt us. We will become hungry with a hunger no image, person or deed can still. ...In order to keep our balance,

we need to hold the interior and exterior, visible and invisible, known and unknown, temporal and eternal, ancient and new together. No one else can undertake this task for you. . . .Behind the facade of image and distraction, each person is an artist in this primal and inescapable sense. Each one of us is doomed and privileged to be an inner artist who carries and shapes a unique world. Human presence is a creative and turbulent sacrament, a visible sign of invisible grace.

Hymn: 123 Spirit of Life

Sermon

Offertory—COM Family Promise

Offertory Hymn: Wake Now My Senses

Congregational Response to Sermon

Extinguishing the Chalice: *Move Through the World in Love* by Maggie Lovins (44 words)

We extinguish this flame but not its meaning and mission in our hearts.

Our time together has come to an end.

Go in peace, be of service to one another,

and may you move through the world in love for all of your days.

Closing Words: *We receive fragments of holiness* by Rev. Sarah Campbell (34 words)

We receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity, brief moments of insight. Let us gather them up for the precious gifts that they are, and, renewed by their grace, move boldly into the unknown.

Singing Shalom