

WELCOME

Welcome!

Grace and Peace be with you in the name of the Holy-One-of-All!
Thank you for coming! We're so glad you've chosen to worship with us today.

It gives me great joy to tell you that
First United Church of Christ and Conference Center is
a church with full real life standing in the Eastern Association;
Southern California Nevada Conference of the
United Church of Christ (UCC).
And anyone you see with a "Minister" tag is an ordained UCC minister in real life.

And as a real UCC church, we'd like you to know that
"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."

Our service will be in voice and text.
Music will be on the media viewer, so be sure that you have voice and media turned
on.

If you don't know how to do that, let someone know and we'll try to help.
There will be a link in Nearby Chat so you can watch it in your browser if the
viewer isn't working for you.
There is a bulletin for the service, if you want one, in the red binder near the
door.

Thank you for coming.
Earlier today we held a memorial svc for our founder our beloved friend and Pastor
the Rev. Dr. Jerry here on Second Life and in Real Life with his family back in
California.

On this evening, we will hold a Taize service.
Taize worship is a contemplative style of worship developed in the ecumenical
monastic community of Taize, France.

It incorporates repetitive chants set to music, sometimes in different languages,
along with moments of silent prayer, and scripture, other readings or prayers.

Take a moment friends to seek a time of mediation and reflection.
The use of repetitive sung prayers allows us to turn off our thinking mind and allow
the music and prayer to sink into our hearts.
I encourage you, if you are some place where you feel safe doing so, to try singing
along with the sung prayers once you get the rhythm.

I invite you to light a candle,
As our candles are lit here in our sanctuary,
to remind us of God's presence with us,

and to set aside this as a time of meditation for you.

I want to remind folks that we are gathering in the upper room above us on Friday's at 4 p.m. SL time which is Pacific time and 6 p.m. central time.

I was a conference this week and I could not get back on time, so I apologize to have cancelled.

I will be here this Friday and I invite everyone to join us for a conversation based on the Joker (2019) film with Joaquin Phoenix, theologian Søren Kierkegaard and our sacred text.

You don't have to have seen the movie or know the theologian.

I'm going to play some snippets of the movie and invite us to dialogue in chat or in voice.

It's a super chill environment, so bring your favorite beverage and snacks, pick a place on the couch and let us learn, engage, and inspire each other.

And now let us invite the Holy Spirit....

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Veni Sancte Spiritus (Taizé)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8y0AxWyfvA>

SCRIPTURE

A good name

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all. Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. Do not rob the poor because they are poor or crush the afflicted at the gate, for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Let us pray

Light of life, when we do not see how to go forward anymore, transfigure the nights of our heart by your gentle presence.

Hasten the day when the shadows will disappear and you will be all in all.

And we will know you as you already know us.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ubi Caritas - Taize [with lyrics for congregations]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vvfr_2euIFo

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.
Do not be anxious about anything...

Let us acknowledge if there is any anxiety in your life today, or anything that might cause you concern.

Breath in -

Acknowledge what it is maybe even naming it

And Breath-

Know your not alone the Holy-One is right there with you.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Let us acknowledge what you bring before God.
Let your request be known to God while this song plays

In the silence of our hearts or in words typed in Nearby Chat
let us give thanks for the gift of this day
and pray for the life of the world ...

if you have a prayer of joy or concern that you wish to lift to God and have supported by the energy of those gathered here, type it in Nearby Chat at this time. Please conclude your prayer with the words, "Lord, in your mercy" so we know you are finished.

When you see "Lord, in your mercy," you may wish to respond with "hear our prayers."
Lord, in your mercy,

Lord hear our prayers
those voiced here today
those spoken only in the depths of our hearts
those for which we have no words,
we lift them al up to you
with faith that you know, better than we,
what is needed.

Confession

Whole God, we confess that we have paid so little attention
to the sources of joy in our daily lives.

We have such constant access to the terrors and traumas of this world
that it has become difficult to see anything else. We have sneered and mocked the
happiness of others, dismissing their fun as immature or juvenile.

We have possessed sparse imagination for the relationship between sorrow and joy,
often demanding joy present as mere cheerfulness.

We have grown so used to the sinister curiosity around Black pain, that we've
created a culture where it is consumed as the only Black experience worth attuning
to.

Liberate us, God.
And have mercy on our imbalanced assessment of daily life,
that in our survival we would cling to the practices of joy we've
inherited and find some measure of peace.
Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer | Taizé | Choir with Lyrics | Jacques Berthier | Psalm 102 |
Sunday 7pm Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BWKmahZgLM>

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:4-7 NRSV

Peace may be far.
Peace may be different for each of us.

Peace might look like gardening.
Peace might look like a nap or perhaps sitting in a tub full of water and lavender
smells with candles around you.

The scriptures says that God's peace surpasses all understanding.
May it your hearts and your minds.

Jesus in John says "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

I want you to name what a nugget or a moment of peace might look like at this time.
Breathe in and see it in your mind.
Breathe out and may it be so...

My Peace -- Taizé Song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPkN7by6XAk>

Benediction

Be at peace.
May you access the fullness of a joy that allows for both an
interior solemnity and a levity.
May you learn to be at rest with yourself, able to access a peace
that carries memory but isn't chained to the past.
And may you laugh, allowing the mystery of joy to steady you
always and keep you from despair. Amen.

Black Liturgies - Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for staying human
by Cole Arthur Riley

Thank you for coming!