

“And the People Stayed Home”

Order of Service – see the words of songs, readings, etc. below

Welcome, Prelude

Singing Together

Find a Stillness #352

Spirit of Life #123

Chalice Lighting

Covenant

Introduction

Story: Breaking News

Original Song – premiere – “May it Be So,” words and music by Lisa Heezen

Solo by Rev Tessie Mandeville

Accompanied by Lisa, and Kevin, with Melanie on the piano

Message – Rev Paul Beckel

Collection: <https://wp.buf.org/administration-overview/donate/>

Offertory Music, Danny Boy

Singing Together

In the Silence, words and music by Rick Hermann, end page

Gather the Spirit #347

Benediction: Desiderata

Circle ‘Round

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Find a Stillness

Find a stillness, hold a stillness, let the stillness carry me.

Find the silence, hold the silence, let the silence carry me.

In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,

I will find true harmony.

Seek the essence, hold the essence, let the essence carry me.

Let me flower, help me flower, watch me flower, carry me.

In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,

I will find true harmony.

Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life, come unto me, sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea, move in the hand giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free.
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Chalice Lighting

And the People Stayed Home, by Kitty O'Meara

And the people stayed home.
And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised,
 and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.
And listened more deeply.
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
Some met their shadows.
And the people began to think differently.
And the people healed.
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless,
 and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.
And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again,
 they grieved their losses, and made new choices,
 and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.

BUF Covenant

Love is the spirit of this fellowship, and service gives it life.
Celebrating our diversity, and joined by a quest for truth,
we work for peace, and honor all creation.
This is our covenant.

May it Be So

Word and music by Lisa Heezen

Our people have so many different stories, or one history is told from many points of view.
But now we're losing sight of those we thought we recognized!
Are we breaking down or mending?

May this be the darkness before the dawn.
May it be the cold before the springtime.
May it come to pass that all is not lost!
May it be so, may it be, may it be so.

The moral arc of the universe is long, but we're not quite sure where it's bending.
The whole wide world seems upside down!
Are we starting up or ending?

And step by step we go on and day by day we go on and side by side by side we journey on.

You know that life can turn around on a dime: twists of fate, mistakes surprise endings.
Does a breakthrough lie around the corner beckoning? Are we hoping or pretending?

And step by step we go on and day by day we go on and side by side by side we journey on.

May this be the darkness before the dawn.
May it be the cold before the springtime.
May it come to pass that all is not lost!
May it be so, may it be, may it be so.

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In the Silence

Words and music by Rick Hermann

In the silence that has fallen
brothers, sisters come to see
that our spirits are unbroken,
sheltered in love's mystery.

[refrain] *Come what may in these dark days,
all our hearts are standing still.
Love will shine again upon us
and our dreams of peace fulfilled*

All the troubles that delude us,
things that I can barely say.
Truth does not survive unspoken;
without breath it fades away. [refrain]

If our hearts could burn like fire,
if our voices could be the wind,
we would give what all desire:
freedom, joy, and peace within. [refrain]

We won't fear the tyrant's anger;
fear will never win our hearts.

We will not be silenced ever,
e'er the king his throne departs. [refrain]

Gather the Spirit

Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our separate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

[refrain] *Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.*

Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more. [refrain]

Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one. [refrain]

Benediction

Desiderata, by Max Ehrmann

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Circle 'Round

Circle 'round for freedom; circle round for peace.
For all of us imprisoned, circle for release.
Circle for the planet; circle for each soul.
For the children of our children, keep the circle whole.