

ORDER OF SERVICE

FEBRUARY, 2021

OPENING WORDS/CHALICE LIGHTING

In my vision of a beloved community, I see a dazzling, light-filled, breathtakingly beautiful mosaic, a gigantic, all-encompassing mosaic, where each of us can see, can really see, and deeply appreciate each piece. We know that each piece is of immeasurable value. We know that each piece is part of a larger whole, a larger whole that would not be whole, indeed would not BE, without each piece shining through, and being seen and appreciated as its unique self.

Marla Scharf, First Unitarian Church of San Jose.

CHECK-IN: If you watched a movie, please share an important insight you gained.

WHAT IS BELOVED COMMUNITY? A discussion

- What does "Beloved Community" mean to you?
- How is BUF working to create Beloved Community?
- What is relationship of Beloved Community to white privilege?

UNPACKING THE INVISIBLE KNAPSACK OF WHITE PRIVILEGE

- Reviewing the premise of Peggy McIntosh's article
- What on the list really jumped out at you? What was missing?
- What 2 or 3 things on the list do you commit to removing? Is it possible?

SHARING YOUR QUESTION

CHECK-OUT: Final thoughts on today's session: Questions, Gratitudes, Reflections

CLOSING WORDS:

Beloved Community is when we say "we," and we mean everyone. Beloved Community is not homogenous. It can't be. When commonality is presumed, when we make assumptions about who is present and whether people are "like us," or not, we're not practicing Beloved Community because Beloved Community doesn't make those assumptions. It doesn't presume commonality... (furthermore) Beloved Community is not being "like-minded," because we're not called to be like-minded in spiritual community. *We're called to be like-hearted.*

And, finally, Beloved Community is not devoid of conflict. And this one is also really hard. Beloved Community is not easy. There's nothing easy about practicing Beloved Community. When we avoid conflict in order to "get along," we're not practicing Beloved Community, because Beloved Community exists when we trust each other, we have the relationships, the strong enough relationships to actually disagree with each other, to be in conflict, even to risk hurting each other, and we can stay in relationship through those disagreements, and conflict, and potential hurt. That's practicing Beloved Community.

Alex Kapitan and Rev Mykal Slack