Gathering for Renewing Faith (March theme)

There are video session suggestions – speaking in turns, using Chat. Some sections use a timer / clock.

When you join the session *Facilitators – do these for yourself first and help others.*

- Check your volume and video, if you are using video. Check your "name tag."
- Make sure you have a copy of the Gathering available.
- **Words of the Day.** Complete this sentence:
  "The dimensions of faith that are most meaningful for me include …"

Chalice Lighting "We'll begin by lighting the chalice." *Ask for a volunteer to read.*

Some beliefs are like walled gardens. They encourage exclusiveness, and the feeling of being privileged. Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies.
Sophia Lyon Fahs

Words of the Day "Now we'll share the Words of the Day." *If you're using Chat, people can't see chat written before they joined, so the facilitator can read. Or people can read their own.*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns "We'll share joys and concerns." *Begin, and then either call on people or ask them to "chain" to the next person. Make sure everyone has an opportunity.*

Silence, holding each other in support "Now a few minutes of silence" *(2 or 3)*

Shared Readings *"*I'll start the first Shared Reading." *Begin, and then either call on people or ask them to "chain" to the next person. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to read.*

There is not one big cosmic meaning for all, there is only the meaning we all give to our life, an individual meaning. *Anaïs Nin*

[Liberation theology] is a theology which does not stop with reflecting on the world, but rather tries to be part of the process through which the world is transformed.
Gustavo Gutiérrez, liberation theologist

Faith is better understood as a verb than a noun, as a process than a possession. *Frederick Buechner*

For there is always light,
If only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it
Amanda Gorman, The Hill We Climb, read at the 2020 Inauguration

None of us knows what might happen even the next minute, yet still we go forward. Because we trust. Because we have faith. *Paulo Coelho*

My goal is to [help people] articulate a theology of salvation by interconnection … we are all born with inherent worth and dignity, from a wellspring of love that desires our interdependence and health and has endowed us with the power to be agents of that salvation right here, right now, on this earth.
UU Rev Ashley Horan

Justice work without theological resources and spiritual practices leads us down the path of burn out. *UUA Widening the Circle report, Theology chapter*

Help us to be the always hopeful gardeners of the spirit who know that without darkness nothing comes to birth as without light nothing flowers. *May Sarton*

Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark. *Rabindranath Tagore*

I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap, and then you grow wings. *William Sloane Coffin*

Deep Listening and Sharing

Round 1. Deep Sharing. "Now we share reflections on renewing faith." *Note the time available for each person. Go first to model. Make sure everyone has an opportunity.*

Round 2. Responses and Comments. *Note how much time is available for Round 2. People can unmute for freer exchange. Go first to model for the group.*

Closing Circle "We're going to say a word or sentence about what we are taking away from the session." *Begin, and then either call on people or use "chaining."*

Chalice "We will extinguish the chalice." *Ask for a volunteer to read.*

We extinguish this flame and we remember the warmth of our community, the light of our wisdom, the generosity of our sharing. We keep these in our heart until we meet again.

Bell or Chime

Announcements

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group
- to let the facilitator know if I will be absent or need to quit
- to share responsibility for good process by watching how much time I take to speak, noticing what is going on for others, and considering problems if they occur
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, giving advice, or advocating a specific view
- to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn and to stay on the "I-message."