



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SAN JOSE

What Happens When You Die?

The goal of all life is death.

- *Sigmund Freud*

To himself everyone is immortal; he may know that he is going to die, but he can never know that he is dead.

- *Samuel Butler*

The grave is but a covered bridge leading from light to light, through a brief darkness.

- *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

It's not that I'm afraid to die. I just don't want to be there when it happens.

- *Woody Allen*

Preliminaries Get a volunteer to light the chalice. Announce church events. Pass the bowl of quotations.

Chalice Lighting
- Gordon B. McKeeman
Read aloud together:
Let us go cautiously, then, to the end of our certainty, to the boundary of all we know, to the rim of uncertainty, to the perimeter of the unknown which surrounds us. ... Simply be in the intimate presence of mystery, unashamed—unadorned—unafraid.

Check-in Please take a minute or two to share briefly what's been on your mind lately.

Reading Round the Circle Read aloud the quotations you drew at the beginning of the session.

Sitting in Silence

Sharing/ Deep Listening Share your responses to the preparation questions. Between each person's sharing, experience one or two minutes of silence.

Discussion This is a time to respond briefly to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.

Singing *Repeat several times. Encourage those who can sing harmony to do so.*

Alleluia.
Alleluia.
Alleluia.
Alleluia.

Closing / Extinguishing the Chalice
Join hands or link arms as you read the closing words together:

- Marjorie Newlin Leaming

Remembering that the universe is so much larger than our ability to comprehend,

Let us go forth from this time together with the resolve to stop trying to reduce the incomprehensible to our own petty expectations,

So that wonder—that sense of what is sacred—can find space to open up our minds and illumine our lives.