



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
SAN JOSE

## Accepting Gifts

“For in truth it is life that gives unto life—while you, who deem yourself a giver, are but a witness. And you receivers—and you are all receivers—assume no weight of gratitude, lest you lay a yoke upon yourself and upon him who gives. Rather, rise together with the giver on his gifts as on wings.”

- Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

<b>Preliminaries</b>	Announcements, chalice lighting, opening words, discussion, responsive reading, closing words	<b>Sharing / Deep Listening</b>	Now is the time to share your thoughts on giving and receiving gifts, and to show your container and gifts, if you brought them.
<b>Opening / Chalice Lighting</b> - Marjorie Montgomery	Life is a gift for which we are grateful. We gather in community to celebrate the glories and the mysteries of this great gift.	<b>Discussion</b>	This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.
<b>Check-in</b>	Take a minute or two to briefly share the high point or the low point of your life since we last met.	<b>Singing</b> - Hymnal #402, "From You I Receive"	Chant or sing two or three times with hand gestures, if you wish.  From you I receive To you I give Together we share And from this we live.
<b>Responsive Reading</b> - Richard M. Fewkes	For the sun and the dawn Which we did not create;  <i>For the moon and the evening Which we did not make;</i>	<b>Closing / Extinguishing the Chalice</b> - Percival Chubb	Join hands or link arms as you read the closing words together.  From the harvest of the soil we are given occasion to garner a harvest of heart and mind.
	For food which we plant But cannot grow;  <i>For friends and loved ones We have not earned and cannot buy;</i>	A harvest of resolve to be careful stewards of all life's gifts and opportunities.	
	For this gathered company Which welcomes us as we are; From wherever we have come;  <i>For all our free churches That keep us human and encourage us in our quest for beauty, truth, and love;</i>	A harvest of reverence for the wondrous power and life at work in things that grow, and in the soul.	
	For all things which come to us As gifts of being from sources beyond ourselves;  <i>Gifts of life and love and friendship We lift up our hearts in thanks this day.</i>	A harvest of gratitude for every good which we enjoy, and of fellowship for all who are sustained by earth's beauty.	
<b>Sitting in Silence</b>	If you wish, meditate on a good gift you received recently and try to relive the gratitude you felt.		