



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SAN JOSE

Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow

What we call a beginning is often
the end
and to make an end is to make a
beginning.
The end is where we start from.
- T.S. Eliot

Preliminaries Ask for volunteers to read the opening words and light the chalice. Make announcements.

Opening
- Albert Schweitzer,
Hymnal #447
At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

Check-in Take a minute or two to share briefly the high point or the low point of your life since we last met.

Reading
- Charles Wm. Conaway
On Leaf-Taking and Leave-Taking
As frost and wind take leaves from trees,
Stripping them naked and bare
For discontentful Winter;
So also does a goodbye
Leave the parters unclothed
And comfortless for a time.
But, as sure as Spring,
There will be buds
And new comings-together,
With time enough to grow.

Sitting in Silence

Sharing/Deep Listening Share your reflections on the preparation you did for this session.

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

Singing
Irish Blessing
(May be read around the circle if group feels uncertain of the tune.)

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rain fall softly on your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the hollow of the hand.
(Repeat if desired)

Closing
- Mary Oliver
Hymnal #696
To live in this world
you must be able to do three things:

To love what is mortal,
to hold it
against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;

And when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go.

Amen. Shalom. Blessed be.