



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
SAN JOSE

## The Stranger

“The more I love humanity in general, the less I love man in particular.”

-- *Dostoyevsky*

“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

-- *Hebrews 13:2*

“Never look down on anybody unless you're helping him up.”

-- *Jesse Jackson*

**Preliminaries** Announcements, chalice lighter, leaders for responsive readings.

**Opening/  
Responsive  
Reading**  
-- Hymnal # 439,  
Sophia Lyon Fahs

We gather in reverence before the  
wonder of life--  
The wonder of being together, so close  
yet so apart--  
*Each hidden in our own secret chamber,*  
Each listening, each trying to speak--  
*Yet none fully understanding, none fully  
understood.*  
We gather in reverence before all intangible things--  
That eyes see not, nor ears can detect--  
*That hands can never touch,  
that space cannot hold,  
and time cannot measure.*

**Check-in**

Briefly share the high or low point of your life this week.

**Singing**  
-- Hymnal #402

(May be repeated if desired.)

From you I receive,  
To you I give  
Together we share,  
And from this we live.

**Sitting in Silence**

**Sharing/Deep  
Listening**

Share your thoughts from the Preparation.

**Responsive  
Reading**  
-- Thandeka,  
Hymnal # 666

Despair is my private pain  
Born from what I have failed to say  
failed to do, failed to overcome.  
*Be still my inner self  
let me raise to you, let me reach  
down into your pain  
and soothe you.*  
I turn to you to renew my life  
I turn to the world, the streets of  
the city, the worn tapestry of  
brokerage firms,

(continued)

*drug dealers, private states  
personal things in the bag lady's cart  
rage and pain in the faces that  
turn from me  
afraid of their own inner worlds.  
This common world I love anew,  
as the life blood of generations  
who refuse to surrender their humanity  
in an inhumane world,  
courses through my veins.*  
From within this world  
my despair is transformed to hope  
and I begin anew  
the legacy of caring.

**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**  
-- Hymnal #346

Come sing a song with me  
Come sing a song with me  
Come sing a song with me  
That I might know your mind.

(Refrain)

And I'll bring you hope  
When hope is hard to find,  
And I'll bring a song of love  
and a rose in the wintertime.

Come dream a dream with me...

Come walk in rain with me...

Come share a rose with me...

**Extinguishing  
the Chalice**  
-- Metta Sutta,  
Hymnal #596  
(adapted)

Let us cultivate boundless goodwill,  
With boundless mind cherishing all living beings,  
Radiating friendliness over the whole world,  
Above, below, and all around, without limit.