



**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
OF SAN JOSE

## **Spirit of Place**

Sovereign and transforming grace  
We invoke your quick'ning power  
Reign the spirit of this place  
Bless the purpose of this hour

Holy and creative light  
We invoke your kindling ray  
Draw upon our spirit's night  
As the darkness turns to day

To the anxious soul impart  
Hope all other hopes above  
Stir the dull and hardened heart  
With a longing and a love

-- Frederick Henry Hedge  
Hymn #33

**Preliminaries** Announcements, getting volunteers for the chalice lighting and readings

**Opening / Chalice Lighting**  
-anonymous Let this flame we light call forth the spirit of this place, that we may know it and in so doing change it for having known our spirits.

**Check-in** Share a sentence or two about the high and low points in your life since we last met.

**Reading**  
- Anonymous As I wander across this earth going from place to place, I am stopped at times by the sense of something mystical. Sometimes it is a solitary thing and other times it seems to only call when there are multitudes. It is something more than sight or sound or smell or touch, for it comes from within and without altogether. Sometimes as a calm peacefulness. Other times a deep sadness or a joy that almost gives you wings. Occasionally it is simply an awe that gives you goose bumps and leaves you feeling small and insignificant. Always, though, there is a feeling of gratitude or warmth for having been touched by the spirit of that place.

**Sitting in Silence**

**Sharing/ Deep Listening** Please share that which was most meaningful to you in your preparation or experience of this celebration

**Singing –**  
Prayer for This House (Hymn #1)

May nothing evil cross this door,  
and may ill fortune never pry  
about these windows may the roar  
and rain go by.

By faith made strong these rafters will,  
withstand the battering of the storm  
This hearth though all the world grow chill  
will keep you warm.

Peace shall walk softly through these rooms  
touching our lips with holy wine  
Till every casual corner blooms  
into a shrine

With laughter drown the raucous shout  
and though these sheltering walls are thin  
may they be strong to keep hate out  
and hold love in.

**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

**Closing**  
-Anonymous

As we darken the flame from our chalice let us each take with us the knowledge of how the spirit of this place has touched our spirits, knowing too that we have left our own impressions on that spirit.