



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF SAN JOSE

You and Jesus

Let us begin by agreeing that to contemplate having a relationship with someone who has died over two millennia ago is irrational. Just because it is irrational, however, does not mean that it is impossible, or that it is not worthwhile. It simply means that your rational mind may not be the best tool to use. So what do you use? Your imagination.

~ Erik Walker Wikstrom, writing in Teacher, Guide, Companion: Rediscovering Jesus in a Secular World

Preliminaries Announce upcoming church events; pass around bowl of quotations, and get volunteers to light the chalice and do the opening reading.

Centering *See Leader Notes.*

Opening / Chalice Lighting
- *the Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom, Teacher, Guide, Companion: Rediscovering Jesus in a Secular World*

He lived over two thousand years ago in a small town in a backwater province. He spent his entire life in an area slightly smaller than the state of Vermont. Yet this Jewish peasant—born to unwed teenage parents—continues to fascinate people, believers and nonbelievers alike. Who was he? What are we to make of the claims made on his behalf? And what, if anything, does it mean in the twenty-first century to profess to have a relationship with him?

Check-in *Briefly share something that happened this week that contributes to your emotional temperature today.*

Read Round the Circle *Going around the circle read the quotations on the slips of paper. You may also read the quotation on the front of this order of service. Please note: These quotations reflect a variety of views and are intended to be thought-provoking.*

Sitting in Silence

Sharing/ Deep Listening *Deeply listening, without response or thought of response at this time, is the gift we give and receive as we share our thoughts on the preparation for this session. Another gift is being mindful of the time as we share. Please share for approximately five minutes.*

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
#251, *Singing the Living Tradition*

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Extinguishing the Chalice
- *Richard M. Fewkes, in the 1997 UUMA Worship Materials Collection*

As Jesus came eating and drinking and made friends with the people of the earth regardless of social distinction or class let us strive to do likewise in our own eating and drinking, thinking and speaking, living and acting.

And let us ever be thankful in the food we eat, the friends we share, the water and wine we drink, the air we breathe, and the songs we sing. So be it. Amen

