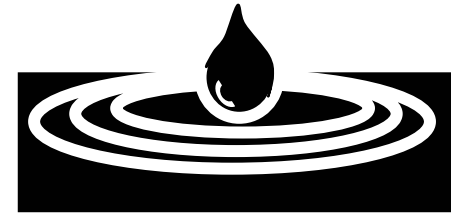




SMALL GROUP MINISTRY  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
SAN JOSE

**Lindi Said Goodbye**



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**Lindi Said Goodbye**

**Preliminaries** Talk to ministers, focused sharing, responsive reading

**Opening Sing**  
-- Hymnal #389  
Gathered here in the mystery of the hour.  
Gathered here in one strong body.  
Gathered here in the struggle and the power.  
Spirit, draw near.

**Reading Round-the-Circle**  
“The Journey”  
(excerpt) by Lillian Smith  
Without words, it comes.  
And suddenly, sharply, one is aware of being separated  
from every person on one’s earth  
and every object,  
and from the beginning of things and from the future  
and even a little, from one’s self.  
A moment before one was happily playing;  
the world was round and friendly.  
Now at one’s feet there are chasms  
that had been invisible until this moment.  
And one knows, and never remembers how it was learned,  
that there will always be chasms,  
and across chasms will always be those one loves.

**Silence** Take a few moments to think about the strongest or most urgent  
feeling you have about Lindi leaving. Crystallize that thought into  
a few words.

**Sharing**

**Singing**  
--Hymnal #123  
Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand, giving life the  
shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

**Closing Responsive reading**  
“The Summons” by  
Lindi Ramsden  
There are times in life  
when the deeper questions knock at the door of the soul  
and refuse to go away...  
until you open to them.  
*There are times in life,  
when a seemingly innocuous bush bursts into flame,  
interrupting ones stable life.  
with a summons to leadership.*  
There are times in life,  
when we are able to remember,  
that in earth and star,  
in death and in birth,  
*in the passing of time,  
and the eternity at the heart of each moment...  
there is a larger mystery.*  
**A mystery that came before us,  
is in and among us,  
will be present after us,  
and is available to us.**

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