



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
SAN JOSE

## Remembering 9/11

When I despair, I remember that,  
all through history, the way of truth and  
love has always won.

- Mohandas Gandhi

“It's not just a story of death and loss. It's  
a love story of human decency triumphing  
over human depravity.”

- Debra Burlingame, sister of Charles  
F. Burlingame III, pilot of the  
hijacked American Airlines jet that  
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**Opening / Chalice Lighting**  
- *Unknown*  
To face the world's coldness, a chalice of warmth.  
To face the world's terrors, a chalice of courage.  
To face the world's turmoil, a chalice of peace.  
May its glow fill our spirits, our hearts, and our lives.

**Sitting in Silence**    *Take a few moments to center yourself.*

**Responsive Reading**  
-- *Linda Thomson, Hamilton, Ontario*  
We have come here today; bruised, wearied and saddened by the remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.  
*Our sense of ourselves and of our place in the world has been challenged.*  
The loss of lives and of landmarks has changed the maps of cities and of hearts.  
*Yet we have come here today; to be together, to struggle to understand and to risk hope.*  
We come to listen to one another, and to be listened to, to share our tears and our anger, to find again our understanding that each of us has the power to heal, that each of us is a small seed of the divine.  
*We come to look with compassion into the eyes of another, and to trust having another look into ours.*  
Together we bear witness to acts of simple kindness.  
*We wonder that the capacity for goodness can co-exist with such hatred.*  
**All: Truly, it is when we come together, reaching out to be with one another, that we can resolve to believe in a world of justice and peace. Together we can risk hope. Together we can invite back the image of beauty. Our small voices can join and form an insistent chorus that affirms that love is an awesome force.**

**Sharing/ Deep Listening**  
*Please share for 2-3 minutes. Please limit your sharing to personal reflections.*  
What thoughts and feelings are foremost in your mind on this anniversary of 9/11? How does this event continue to affect your life?

**Closing**  
-- *Hymnal #155, "Circle 'Round for Freedom"*  
*Sing three or more times together:*  
Circle 'round for freedom, circle 'round for peace for all of us imprisoned, circle for release, Circle for the planet, circle for each soul, for the children of our children, keep the circle whole.

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