

**Ritual Of  
Transition**

- Thomas  
Mickelson & Rev.  
Jory Agate,  
adapted

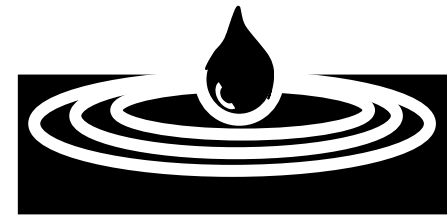
(Read around the  
circle)

Things change.  
We change.  
Our lives never stand still.  
There is always something new.  
We are always making transitions,  
from one thing to another  
one experience to another  
one stage of life to another  
one challenge to another.

Some transitions are easy,  
Some are hard  
Some seem almost impossible  
Some are exciting and joyful,  
Some are painful and frightening.  
We change cities and homes.  
We change jobs and activities.  
We change commitments.  
We even change our minds

At this moment  
We pause to recognize our transitions  
To add (insert names) to our group  
And to give thanks for this place  
Where our transitions make a difference  
Spiritual life is always in transition.  
Beloved community is community in transition.

[Unison]  
**In anticipation of future transitions  
We leave this chair empty,  
Ready for new people,  
New ideas  
New transitions.**



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
SAN JOSE

## Ourselves & Our Stories

"Church happens when two or more people reveal the  
Thou to one another."

- Martin Buber, adapted

**Preliminaries** Deep listening, confidentiality, and letting the experience come forth anew.

**Opening / Chalice Lighting**  
- from the Small Group Ministry FAQ  
We light this chalice to affirm the goals of small group ministry: to develop a growing network of small groups that draw us into mutual ministry, strengthen our congregation, deepen our understanding of Unitarian Universalist principles and values, continuously develop lay leadership, challenge us to action and spiritual growth, express our principles and values in the community, and help members identify their own calling and expression of lay ministry.

**Ritual Of Transition** (Shown on back page)

**Check-in** Going around the circle, take one or two minutes to introduce yourself to the group. Place your object on the altar, and explain its meaning. Your introduction may include information about how long you've been coming to the church, your children, your job, your hobbies or any other facts you consider important.

**Reading**  
- Elizabeth Tarbox, Life Tides  
When I see you with worry on your brow and shadows in your eyes, and I say to you, "What's up?" remind me gently that I was not there when you made that journey to the center of your soul. Tell me as kindly as you can that I am sleeping when night clutches at you and you are driven to a place in your heart which is ever night. Do not let me say, "Don't worry," when worry is all you know and it feels as if worry is all you'll ever know.

For none of us ever really walks in another's shoes or knows the innermost rooms of a person's heart. None of us truly knows the lonely places of another's journey or the causes of the lines around another's eyes. Therefore, let us be gentle with one another. Let us listen more than we speak and accept more than we judge. Let our open, outstretched hands reach and touch that we may walk along together for a little while in friendship and in trust.

**Sitting in Silence**

Session 21, 1/17/02

**Sharing/Deep Listening** Please share your responses to the questions you answered prior to this session.

**Singing**  
- "Come Sing a Song With Me," Hymnal #346

*First verse*  
Come sing a song with me, (3 times)  
That I might know your mind.

*Chorus*  
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.

*Other verses*  
Come, dream a dream with me  
Come, walk in rain with me  
Come share a rose with me

**Responsive Reading**  
- Edwin Muir, Hymnal #670

Friend, I have lost the way.  
*The way leads on.*  
Is there another way?  
*The way is one.*  
I must retrace the track.  
*It's lost and gone.*  
Back, I must travel back!  
*None goes there, none,*  
Then I'll make here a place --  
*The road runs on --*  
Stand still and set my face --  
*The road leaps on --*  
Stay here, forever stay.  
*None stays here, none.*  
I cannot find the way.  
*The way leads on.*  
Oh, places I have passed!  
*That journey's done.*  
And what will come at last?  
*The way leads on.*

**Extinguishing the Chalice**  
- Annie Dillard, Hymnal #420

We are here to abet creation and to witness to it, to notice each other's beautiful face and complex nature so that creation need not play to an empty house.