



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SAN JOSE

Passover



“...the reason the tradition obligates us to see ourselves as though we had participated in the Exodus is so that we can testify to the central Jewish truth: The world can and should be radically transformed.”

-- *Rabbi Michael Lerner*

The McPassover Story

(for those who like to read on the run)

-- from www.angelfire.com/pa2/passover

Passover is the Jewish holiday that celebrates and memorializes the freedom of the Hebrews or Israelites from slavery in Egypt and takes place near the end of March or beginning of April. During the first two nights, there are gastronomic marvels and readings from the Haggadah, with prayers, singing, and blessings, which occur in a specific "order" or sequence. The meaning of "order" in Hebrew is "Seder." The youngest child recites the four questions, and the traditional head of the family, usually the grandfather, recites the readings from the Haggadah. No food containing yeast (called 'Chometz' or 'Chametz' in Hebrew) is allowed in the house during the holiday of Passover. Only unleavened bread, called Matzah, is permitted. This symbolizes the unleavened bread that the Israelites made in haste as they were fleeing Egypt.

Preliminaries Announcements, Seder on April 17, chalice lighter and reader, discussion

Opening / Chalice Lighting
-- Hymnal #453,
Passover Haggadah
May the light we now kindle
inspire us to use our powers
to heal and not to harm,
to help and not to hinder
to bless and not to curse,
to serve you, Spirit of Freedom.

Check-in Share one joy and one sorrow from the past week.

Reading Round-the-Circle
-- Hymnal #631,
Congregation Beth
El, Sudbury, MA
(adapted)
What sacrifices would we make for freedom today?
What would we leave?
How far would we go?
How deeply would we look within ourselves?
The Jewish people had no time to await the rising of the bread.
Yet we, who have that time, what do we do to be worthy of our freedom?
How easy it is to relive the days of bondage as we sit here now in warmth and comfort.
How much harder to relieve the pain of those who live in the bitterness of slavery today.

Sitting in Silence As you sit in silence, you might wish to meditate on the question from the reading:

What sacrifices would we make for freedom today?

Sharing/ Deep Listening Please share your thoughts on the Preparation for this session.

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
-- Hymnal #116,
"I'm On My Way"
In this traditional African-American folk tune, each verse follows the same simple pattern. If you wish, you can sing it in two groups, with the second group repeating each line of the verse, then all joining together on the chorus.

I'm on my way
(*repeat*: I'm on my way)
To the freedom land.
(*repeat*: To the freedom land.)
(*sing all verse lines twice more*)

Chorus: I'm on my way,
Great God, I'm on my way.

Verse 2: I asked my sister,
Come and go with me.
Chorus

Verse 3: I asked my brother,
Come and go with me.
Chorus

Verse 4: If they say no,
I'll go anyhow.
Chorus

Verse 5: I'm on my way
And I won't turn back.
Chorus

Closing / Extinguishing the Chalice
-- Rabbi Michael
Lerner (adapted)

(Link arms and read in unison)

We shift our focus from pain to hope,
and dedicate our energies to transforming
this world and ourselves.

We still believe in a world based on love,
generosity, and open-heartedness.

We continue to affirm the Unity of All Being.

Amen. Shalom. Blessed Be.

L'Chayim! (To life!)