

Hope by Rev. Craig Schwalenberg

Hope is quiet.
She is easily overlooked.
And while she goes to all the parties,
loves crowds and gatherings,
she is rarely seen.
People often forget to invite her,
and just as often forget she was present.
But Hope doesn't mind.
She likes the hustle and the bustle.
She likes doing small things
while people aren't looking.
Straightening pictures on the wall.
Carrying empty dishes to the kitchen.
Little assistance, rarely noticed.
When she was a child,
Hope had an unfortunate experience
with a game of Hide and Seek.
When her cousin Fear had been found,
the girl they were playing with
stopped looking for Hope.
As a young adult,
Hope had numerous relationships.
But they rarely lasted—her lovers held her too
tight.
They were really in love with her cousin,
but were too afraid to say so.
Hope and Fear are both best friends with Change,
and they often go traveling together.



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SAN JOSE

Hope

“We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.”
~*Oscar Wilde*

Centering	<i>See Leader Notes.</i>	Reading <i>(adapted from Harvey Simkovits by T. Lebak) (read responsively)</i>	With Hope We see the world differently... <i>There is no blame or shame; life is experienced without hard judgment.</i> With Hope <i>There is caring compassion and curiosity for understanding and learning</i> With Hope <i>There are no enemies, resistance is approached merely as information</i> With Hope <i>There is an appreciation for what's working, and a respect for whats not.</i> With Hope <i>Trust and connection are generated, many more futures become feasible.</i> With Hope <i>Life expands, not contracts; there is room to approach, explore, and grow.</i> With Hope <i>One looks through the eyes of what can happen, not merely what has happened.</i> With Hope <i>One focuses on commonalities rather than differences, yet respecting the latter</i> With Hope <i>Life is entered and the moment is stepped into with an appetite for what is possible.</i> With Hope <i>There is a respect for realism and pessimism, yet no further need to lead with it.</i>
Preliminaries	<i>Get volunteer to light the chalice and 2 readers for the long poems. Announce upcoming church events.</i>		
Opening / Chalice Lighting ~ Marjorie Montgomery	<i>(Read aloud together) Life is a gift for which we are grateful. We gather in community to Celebrate the glories and the mysteries of this great gift.</i>		
Check-in	<i>How goes thy spirit? What do you need to leave behind in order to be fully present here and now? 2-3 sentences</i>		
Reading	<i>Read each poem on the back .</i>		
Sitting in Silence	<i>Speak the thoughts and feelings that arose as you did the preparation for this session. Sharing should be about five minute per person.</i>		
Sharing/Deep Listening	<i>Deeply listening, without response or thought of response at this time, is the gift we give and receive as we share our thoughts.</i>		
Discussion	<i>This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.</i>	Singing ~ #95 <i>Singing the Living Tradition</i>	There is more love somewhere. There is more love somewhere. I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it. There is more love somewhere. <i>Repeat with hope, peace, joy</i>
		Closing/ Extinguishing Chalice ~ <i>Antoine de Saint- Exupery</i>	<i>Join hands or link arms as you read the closing words together.</i> If you want to build a ship, don't herd people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.