

Other Service Elements
Rev. Chris Jimmerson



Benedictions

Please rise in body or spirit for the benediction.

From the poet Maya Angelou: “One isn’t necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We cannot be kind, true, merciful, generous or honest.”

And so, let us go forth not seeking lives free of fear, for fear when it is healthy, warns us that danger may be near, our courage may be needed.

Instead, let us go forth with our courage fully unmasked. Let us, as our value statement says, unmask our courage to live lives of honesty, vulnerability and beauty.

So may it be. Amen.

May your heart sail on warming winds to new heights of exhilaration.

May your thoughts embrace all that is ever unfolding within and around you.

May your spirit discover new depths, new understandings, an ever-growing sense of peace and right place in the world.

May you know that this Beloved Community holds you and is with you not just today but throughout your days.

Blessed be. Amen

Now, as we extinguish our chalice and go out into our world,

May your days to come be filled with peace.

May your spirit overflow with boundless love.

Grounded in that love, may your courage rise up and embrace
uncertainty and vulnerability.

May you be blessed and may you bless the lives of others.

Go in peace. Go knowing that part of this place and of this beloved
community travel with you until next you return.

May the congregation say, “Amen” and “Blessed Be”

Now, as we go out into our world;

May the covenant that binds us together dwell in your heart and
nourish your days,

May the mission that we share inspire your thoughts and light your
way,

May the spirit of this beloved community go with you until next
we are gathered again.

Go out now with hearts filled with compassion: a
compassion that nourishes your soul and moves you toward
action for justice.

Go in peace. Go with love. May the spirit of this religious
community and the bond we share be with you until next we
gather again.

Prayers
Rev. Chris Jimmerson

Please join me in a spirit of prayer, meditation or contemplation. Spirit of love and life, source of our call toward compassion and justice, enter this sacred space today. Enter our hearts and stir us toward acts of compassion for those who are suffering, love toward those unknown to us, acts of justice when conditions in our world are not consistent with our religious principles.

Help us to live out those principles in our daily lives and in our worlds. Give us the strength to seek comfort and assistance when we need it and to offer comfort and assistance when others are in need, for such is the nature of this, our beloved community.

Fill us with grace so that we may know joy.

Fill us with courage so that we may bring justice into our world.

Fill us with a love beyond all words, a love that extends beyond those we already know and reaches out to the stranger, a life giving and lifesaving love.

Amen.

Spirit of Life, as we approach the day when we remember those who have lost their lives in war, fill us with gratitude for their service and their sacrifice.

Fill us with the greatest empathy for their loved ones who are grieving their loss.

Remind us that the human heart beats loudest and most strongly when we allow love to fill it to overflowing.

Spirit of life, forge in us the courage to struggle for a world that is more life-giving, to keep our hearts overflowing with love and empathy and gratitude until we know a time when there is less loss, more peace.

Let us dwell in love. Let us dwell in all that is life giving.

Now, let's take a moment to speak the names of those we want to hold dear to us and who we want to especially lift up, whether still in our lives or now alive in our memories, followed by a moment of silence.

Amen. Blessed be.

Spirit of Love and Life breathe into our awareness, into our minds and hearts, a deep understanding that we are not separate from life and love but a part of them.

Help us to know that we are both held within beloved community and creative partners in its continuing emergence.

Bless us with an ongoing awareness of our interconnectedness and a growing sense of our place within the web of existence of which we are a part.

Let us be surrounded and sheltered by an ever expanding and life-giving love, knowing that when we are vulnerable enough give and receive love freely, we expand its presence in our own lives and beyond. When we live wholeheartedly, we open the space for others to do so also.

Let us dwell in gratitude for such expansive love and for the gift of life.

Amen.

Spirit of love and life, source of creativity and possibility, breathe into us now an awareness of our true interconnectedness with each other and within the web of all existence of which we are part.

Give us insight into the transformative potential of that awareness.

Help us to accept and embrace change, as our universe and our world are composed of change ever unfolding.

Remind us that we experience that which is greater than us, not alone, but in relationship.

Bless us with gratitude. Bless us with forgiveness.
Remind us that though we experience great challenges,

sometimes great sorrows in life, so too may we be drawn toward beauty and grace and joy.

Beckon us toward a vision of beauty, peace, vitality and liberation – of justice realized – of all that is life giving.

Amen.

We light this flame that it may provide warmth and welcome to all who enter this sacred space. We call forth our better selves through the light that glows from our presence together. May that light shine out beyond these walls and bring justice and compassion into our world.

Amen

Now, let us enter a moment of silence together.

Let us share the silence together, each in our own deep reflection, meditation or prayer, and yet each of us sensing our connectedness with one another; those of us here now, those who came before us, and those who will follow and to whom we give our hopes, dreams and prayers. Together in this sacred place, this church that is us:

Grateful for all that we have been together.

Rejoicing in all that we are together now.

Overjoyed by the vibrancy we are becoming together,

For this moment, let us dwell in the silence together.

Words for Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Chris Jimmerson

And now, we extinguish our chalice, but not the faith in beloved community that we share together – the hope we bring into our world as a religious community.

These we carry with us in our daily lives until we are together again.

Now, we extinguish our chalice and go forth into our world.

As we go forth, may the fire for love and justice continue to burn in our hearts – May warmth of community continue to sustain us – May we carry a piece of this sacred place with us until we are together again.