

Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists

Re-Wilding

'Why We Need to be Wild' - The Book and the Message."



Worship Team: John Bohland + Jessica Carew Craft
+ Meg Dorsey + Michael Haynes + Rev. Alex

December 10, 2023 | 10am

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
we invite you into this community of searchers and seekers.
It is our purpose to nurture the individual spiritual path of each person,
and build a common faith based on our shared core values which include
recognizing the inherent worth of all people and the quest for peace with justice
and equality in our community and the world.

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Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, mobile: 415.706.5397 | Office Manager: Vicky Jungers

The order of service is subject to change at the leading of the Spirit.
Listening Assistance Devices are available at the entry of the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY CELEBRATION

PRELUDE "I'm Wondering Where the Lions Are" Bruce Cockburn Michael Haynes

GREETINGS + ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Alex

LIGHTING OF HANNUKAH + ADVENT CANDLES Alisa Greenhill

STORY FOR ALL AGES "I'm Scared" Winnie-The-Pooh Rev. Alex

OPENING SONG "Talking About My Soul" Michael Haynes

CHALICE LIGHTING & INCENSE OFFERING Meg Dorsey

"On the Pulse of Morning" by Maya Angelou

A Rock, A River, A Tree
Hosts to species long since departed,
Marked the mastodon,
The dinosaur, who left dried tokens
Of their sojourn here
On our planet floor,
Any broad alarm of their hastening doom
Is lost in the gloom of dust and ages.
But today, the Rock cries out to us, clearly, forcefully,
Come, you may stand upon my
Back and face your distant destiny,
But seek no haven in my shadow,
I will give you no hiding place down here.
You, created only a little lower than
The angels, have crouched too long in
The bruising darkness Have lain too long
Facedown in ignorance,
Your mouths spilling words Armed for slaughter.
The Rock cries out to us today,
You may stand upon me,
But do not hide your face.

JOYS + SORROWS + GRATITUDE Rev. Alex

"Rooted" by Aisha Badru
Plant your feet upon the earth
Know your value, know your worth
Take a breath that's long and deep
You're carried by the ground beneath
Feel the sunshine on your skin
A lotus flower blossoming
Your journey is your offering
You are here for a reason

Send your roots down through the dirt
Anchoring you through the hurt
With every breath lengthen your spine
Reaching steady towards the light
Feel the sunshine on your skin
Turn up the wiser voice within
Your story is your offering
You are here for a reason

OFFERING

Rev. Alex

OFFERTORY

"And I See"

Michael Haynes

REFLECTION

"Re-Wilding"

John Bohland + Jessica Carew Kraft

CONTEMPLATION

The Beginning and the End by Robinson Jeffers

Rev. Alex

*What is this thing called life? I believe
That the earth and the stars too, and the whole
glittering universe, and rocks on the mountains have life,
Only we do not call it so--I speak of the life
That oxidizes fats and proteins and carbo-
Hydrates to live on, and from that chemical energy
Makes pleasure and pain, wonder, love, adoration,
hatred and terror: how do these things grow
From a chemical reaction?
I think they were here already, I think the rocks
And the earth and the other planets, and the stars and the galaxies
have their various consciousness, all things are conscious;
But the nerves of an animal, the nerves and brain
Bring it to focus; the nerves and brain are like a burning-glass
To concentrate the heat and make it catch fire:
It seems to us martyrs hotter than the blazing hearth
From which it came. So we scream and laugh, clamorous animals
Born howling to die groaning: the old stones in the dooryard
Prefer silence; but those and all things have their own awareness,
As the cells of a man have; they feel and feed
and influence each other, each unto all,
Like the cells of a man's body making one being,
They make one being, one consciousness, one life, one God.*

Chanting

"I Am Connected" by Beautiful Chorus

My roots reach deeply. I am connected to be core of me.

▲ CLOSING SONG

"Everywhere"

Michael Haynes

▲ COMMISSION + BENEDICTION

Meg Dorsey

"The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry, Scottish Poetry Library, 2016

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound*

*in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.
For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

▲ CHALICE EXTINGUISHING

As we go forth, may we carry the flame of Love, and Peace with Justice.
Until we meet again, Blessed be!



"Imagine..."

Graphic design Rev. Alex + photos by John Bohland