

Pastoral Prayer
Offered by Rev. Abbey Tennis
September 27th, 2015
First Unitarian Church of Oakland

Spirit of Life, Holiness beyond knowing, Dear God,

On this warm September morning, once again, we have gathered. As we do every year. As people around the world and across time have gathered to pay homage to the Love that transcends our individual lives. We gather to feel that love.

As we gather may we breathe in peace. As we gather, may we breathe out love.

In this one room are gathered those churning with anger, those aloft with joy, weighted by grief, immobilized by fear. In this room are gathered those who are anxious, those who are desensitized. Those who are tired, and those brimming with energy. In this room there is deep contentment, and aching loneliness. Weariness and excitement.

This room, like the world outside it, holds strangers and friends, individuals and community, families and orphans and those estranged from their loved ones.

In this room may we breathe in peace. In this room, may we breathe out love.

All life arose from a single source. We are all siblings. And we share a common destiny. We are all connected. In this connection, we find transformation and healing.

In this connection may we breathe in peace. In this connection, may we breathe out love.

Today and all days, may we see clearly our connection with those around us. Today and all days, may we listen deeply to those within this room and to our neighbors outside these walls. Today and all days, may love gather within us and pour forth from us.

Today and all days, may we breathe in peace. Today and all days, may we breathe out love.

Dear Spirit of Life, may we open all our senses to the universe inside us, and the world around us. Help us to know our own worth and dignity. Help us to love ourselves. And help us to know each other's worth and dignity. What happens to one, happens to all.

Let love be our guide.

May all who suffer find comfort. May all who are glad find fellows in celebration.

And may we all breathe in love and breathe out peace.

Amen, and Blessed Be.