



Announcements – Shared

Community

- Share the love - welcoming Baby Felix and Baby Adrienne
- February 7 - Across the Harbor Music on the Square 4pm & 8pm. Volunteers welcome! Talk to Amy for info. Also helpful - please spread the word. Thank you!

Service

- January 25 - Bystander Training by Sanctuary Cities - rescheduled. New time TBD

Spiritual Practices

- February 11 - Sunday School Safety Training on Zoom - please register ahead:
 - <https://onrealm.org/CotSBaltimore/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YzY0MGlwMmQtOGM3YS00NjVkJTgxYjEtYjNkNTAxMjQzZDg2>
- Coming up for Lent: Food, Learning, Art! Help us plan some art - talk to Amy or Rachel
- Coming up for Lent: Bluegrass vespers with Breath of God. Want to help lead music? Talk to Amy
- Sunday Morning Volunteer Cross-Training - February 21st 9-11am

Greeting & Orientation – Amy Sens

*“One of the greatest parts of life is being greeted
by moments that make you certain you are
where you’re meant to be - I was meant to be in this wild wind”*

— Alice Tyszka, *Embracing The Storm*

Song – Be Here Now - Mason Jennings – The Band

Be here now
No other place to be
Or just sit there dreaming
Of how life would be
If we were somewhere better
Somewhere far
Away from all all worries
Well, here we are

You are the love of my life

Be here now
No other place to be
All the doubts that linger

Just set them free
And let good things happen
And let the future come
Into each moment
Like a rising sun

You are the love of my life
You are the love of my life
Yeah, you know you are

Sun comes up and we start again
Sun comes up and we start again
Sun comes up and we start again
Sun comes up and we start again

**Sun comes up and we start again
Sun comes up and we start again**

**And it's all new today
All we have to say
Is be here now**

**Be here now
No other place to be
This whole world keeps changing
Come change with me
Everything that's happened
All that's yet to come
Is here inside this moment
It's the only one**

**You are the love of my life
You are the love of my life**

Yeah, you know you are

**Sun comes up and we start again
Sun comes up and we start again**

**And it's all new today
All we have to say
Is be here now**

Welcome - Cooley Shawlers

Children's Message - Rachel Cooley Shawler

**God be in my head
God be in my words**

**God be in my heart
God be in my hands
God be in my whole self**

Passing of the Peace

Reading One – Milkweed by Bradford Tice - Mickey & Maureen Sawyer-Brown

**I tell myself softly, *this is how love begins*—
the air alive with something inconceivable,
seeds of every imaginable possibility
floating across the wet grasses, under
the thin arms of ferns. It drifts like snow
or old ash, settling on the dust of the roadways
as you and I descend into thickets, flanked
by the fragrance of honeysuckle and white
primrose.**

**I recall how my grandmother imagined
these wanderers were living beings,
some tiny phylum yet to be classified as life.
She would say they reminded her of maidens
decked in white dresses, waltzing through air.**

Even after I showed her the pods from which
they sprang, blossoming like tiny spiders,
she refused to believe.

Now, standing beside you in the crowded
autumn haze, I watch them flock, emerge from
brittle stalks, bursting upon the world as
young lovers do—trysting in the tall grasses,
resting fingers lightly in tousled hair.
Listen, and you can hear them whisper
in the rushes, gazing out at us, wondering—
what lives are these?

Psalm 29 - All Shout Glory - Jim, Zack & Amy

Refrain: All shout "Glory"
 All shout "Glory"
 All shout "Glory" in your temple, Lord.
 "Glory" in your temple, Lord.

Give the Lord glory, you spirits!
Give glory! Honor God's strength!
Honor the name of the Lord!
Bow when the Lord comes,
majestic and holy.

God's voice thunders
above the massive seas;
powerful, splendid,
God shatters the cedars,
shatters the cedars of Lebanon,
makes Lebanon jump like a calf,
Sirion like a wild ox.

God's voice strikes fire,
makes the desert shudder,
Qadesh shudder in labor,
deer writhe in labor.
God strips the trees.

All shout "Glory" in your temple, Lord.

Prayers of the People – James Hamilton

Song – I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For – U2 - Amy & Zack

I have climbed the highest mountain
I have run through the fields
Only to be with you
Only to be with you
I have run, I have crawled
I have scaled these city walls
These city walls
Only to be with you

But I still haven't found what I'm lookin' for
But I still haven't found what I'm lookin' for

I have kissed honey lips
Felt the healing fingertips
It burned like fire
This burnin' desire

I have spoke with the tongue of angels
I have held the hand of a devil
It was warm in the night
I was cold as a stone

But I still haven't found what I'm lookin' for
But I still haven't found what I'm lookin' for
I believe in the Kingdom Come
Then all the colours will bleed into one
Bleed into one
But yes, I'm still runnin'

You broke the bonds and you loosened the chains
Carried the cross of my shame
Of my shame
You know I believe it

But I still haven't found what I'm lookin' for
But I still haven't found what I'm lookin' for
But I still haven't found what I'm lookin' for
But I still haven't found what I'm lookin' for

Reading Two: John 3:1-21 (CEB) - Fred Curtis

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it's not possible to see God's kingdom.”

Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It's impossible to enter the mother's womb for a second time and be born, isn't it?”

Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?”

“Jesus answered, “You are a teacher of Israel and you don't know these things? I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don't

receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

“This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God.”

Song – Rivers Run - Karine Polwart - The Band

This weary earth we walk upon
She will endure when we are gone
While kingdoms come and kingdoms go
Rivers run and rivers flow

You know I don't believe it's true
That in this world there's nothing new
For darling, you have just begun
Rivers flow and rivers run

And if the river should ever run dry
Somewhere the rain will still fall
Will still fall from the sky

When I'm beguiled by the fear
That darker days are drawing near
My darling, you seduce the sun
Rivers flow and rivers run

And if the river should ever run dry
Somewhere the rain will still fall
Will still fall from the sky

This wounded Earth we walk upon
She will endure when we are gone
But still I pray that you may know
How rivers run and rivers flow

And if the river should ever run dry
Somewhere the rain will still fall
Will still fall from the sky

I cross my heart and I hope to live
Just long enough that I can give
It all to you, my darling one
Rivers flow and rivers run
My darling one
Rivers flow and rivers run

Sermon – Amy Sens

Celebration and Offering

<https://www.churchonthesquarebaltimore.org/giving>

Council

Song – Christ Be Our Light – The Band

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.**

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church,
Gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is trouble.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.**

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church,
Gathered today.**

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.**

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church,
Gathered today.**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.**

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church,
Gathered today.**

**Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.**

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church,
Gathered today.**

Prayer and Blessing – Jim Hamilton

Song – I Can See Clearly Now - The Band

**I can see clearly now the rain is gone
I can see all obstacles in my way
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind
It's gonna be a bright, bright sun shiny day
It's gonna be a bright, bright sun shiny day**

I think I can make it now the pain is gone
All of the bad feelings have disappeared
Here is that rainbow I've been praying for
It's gonna be a bright (Bright), bright sun shiny day

Look all around, there's nothing but blue skies
Look straight ahead, nothing but blue skies

I can see clearly now; the rain is gone
I can see all obstacles in my way
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind
It's gonna be a bright, bright sun shiny day
It's gonna be a bright, bright sun shiny day

Dismissal – Jim Hamilton
