

- Centering -

It is a primal drive, of all beings, to overcome our sense of aloneness, our isolation and separateness. Every spiritual tradition recognizes this truth. We know this too—only we are not always so conscious about it. It can feel more like a nagging discomfort, this longing to find purpose and meaning in our lives.

The very essence of what we long for is to absorb ourselves in a great love; to serve one another, and to serve something beyond ourselves. To know that we are not alone, but we are part of a great, flowing river; a higher purpose.



It is when we find—sometimes stumble upon—a sense of oneness, with another person, with our work, with our God, that we feel most alive, most fully human.

This is what faith offers: a way out of your self-centered isolation, the reminder that someone else—maybe someone whose face or life is captured on one of the banners in this sanctuary—needs your love, your care, your concern.

I invite you, in this moment of silence, to reflect on why you are here. What is it you seek, most essentially? What is it you might *find*, in this hour of worship, to connect you with something that *really matters*? In silence, you are invited to speak your truth, to God and to yourself.

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“Come,” God said.

“Draw near to me, and I will give you my heart, a passion for love.”

And then Jesus said, “Let me show you. This is what that love looks like.”

We come, our God. We come to be freed from our self-centeredness;
We come to be bound, to you, and to one another.