



## Coming of Age Again... and Again... and Again...

October 8, 2023

### Gathering of Community

Music for Gathering	'Simple Gifts'	People's Ringers
Opening Words		Rev. Rachel Lonberg
Words of Welcome		Chris Measzros
Announcements	Rev. Rachel Lonberg, Rachel Chadderdon Bair	
Introit	'Lead with Love' (DeMore)	Savannah Ramsey
Chalice Lighting		Chris Measzros

*If you are lighting a chalice at home, you are encouraged to type in the chat box 'A chalice is lit in (your neighborhood/city/street).'*

Words: 'Chalice Lighting for Children's Sunday' by Christian Schmidt and Alexis Capen

### Affirming our Connections

Religious Education Teacher Commissioning  
Diane Melvin, Director of Religious Education

Responsive Reading 'Covenant for Honoring Children'  
(adapted from The Raffi Foundation)

**Congregation: We find these joys to be self-evident: That all children are created whole, endowed with innate intelligence, and with dignity and wonder. All children are worthy of respect. As the embodiment of life, liberty and happiness, children are original blessings, here to learn their own song.**

**Every child is entitled to love, dream, and belong to a loving community.**

*Religious Education Teachers: We affirm our duty to nourish and nurture the young, to honor their caring ideals as the heart of being human. We recognize the early years as the foundation of life, and cherish the contribution of children to human evolution.*

**Congregation: We commit ourselves to peaceful ways and vow to keep children from harm or neglect. As guardians of their prosperity, we honor the bountiful Earth whose diversity sustains us. Thus we pledge our love for generations to come.**

Children and Teacher Recessional 'Go Forth' (Ramsey/Drake)  
*Go forth in peace, in search of wisdom,  
With love to guide you on your way  
And may the joy of life surround you  
Wherever you may go.*

Special Offering to Benefit Care Collective of Southwest Michigan



Support the good and important work of People's Church:  
[www.tinyurl.com/givingtopeoples](http://www.tinyurl.com/givingtopeoples)

Offertory 'We'll Build a Land' (#121) People's Ringers

Giving Thanks for All That Sustains Us Chris Measzros  
*From the countless gifts we each have been given,  
gifts of life and love and sustenance,  
we bring these small portions to share in the works of love  
which none of us can accomplish alone.*

Joys and Sorrows Rev. Rachel Lonberg

### Searching for Wisdom and Inspiration

Silent Meditation

Spoken Meditation 'Our Roots of Resilience'  
by Kimberlee Anne Tomczak Carlson

Musical Meditation 'From You I Receive' (#402)  
Jennifer Drake & Savannah Ramsey

Readings from *Recollections of My Nonexistence*  
by Rebecca Solnit  
'Finding New Questions' in *The Sage's Tao Te Ching*  
by William Morris  
'In the Dark' by Lynn Ungar

Song 'We Give Thanks' (#1010)  
Jennifer Drake & Savannah Ramsey

Sermon Rev. Rachel Lonberg

### **Returning to the World**

Closing song 'We Laugh, We Cry' (#354)  
Jennifer Drake & Savannah Ramsey

Closing words Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Postlude

Coffee Quarter breakout rooms

All are invited to stay on Zoom for 15 minutes of small group conversation.

### **Opportunities for Growth, Learning, and Lessening Loneliness**

Coming of Age for Adults and Youth, Sundays at 12:30 – starts today & continues on the first Sunday of the month through May

Inquirers Series – a class for newcomers, new members, and anyone who wants to learn more about the church begins Sunday October 29, 12:30-1:30, and continues every other Sunday (with a break in late December) until early March.

*The Inner Work of Age* book study starts October 17, continuing on third Tuesdays at 1:30 on Zoom - contact Rev. Rachel for more information

Young Adult Chalice Circle - contact Sulan Artz-Iffland

Chalice Circles – new circle forming now! Contact Donna McClurkan

Book groups, study group, film group and more –check the newsletter and weekly email.

Contact information for the group leaders listed above can be found in the church directory – or contact Melissa, our church administrator, at [office@peopleschurch.net](mailto:office@peopleschurch.net) or 269-375-3262

Further ahead:

A joint book group between People's Church and Congregation B'Nai Israel, Kalamazoo's Reform Jewish Congregation, on *On Repentance and Repair* by Danya Ruttenberg, will happen in January 2024 – start reading now.

Rev. Rachel is in the early stages of planning workshops on gender and substance use disorder and opioid prevention training. Keep up with all of these opportunities in our monthly newsletter and weekly email.

If you have other ideas for learning and growing together (and some energy to help make them happen), please reach out to Rev. Rachel