

CALL TO WORSHIP

Good morning. Our lives make a difference because we work creatively to make them make a difference; but we cannot do this unaided. All those who came before bequeathed so much raw material for us weave. And the rawest material of all, paradoxically, was their passing, without which we could not see the horizon of mortality and thus could not know life.

Today, we briefly lift the veil between the living and the dead. We call these ancestors -- recent and distant -- back into our presence, that we may be more present with ourselves. Please add your voices to mine, therefore, in calling to worship a greater company than usually assembles here of a Sunday morning. In a moment a bell will sound. Please join me in a time of meditation, during which you are invited to call out the name of an ancestor whose presence you yearn for.

[SILENT MEDITATION WITH CALL OUT OF NAMES]

For all these ancestors, we open our hearts in gratitude and renew our resolve to be as generous to those who follow us as these benefactors have been to us. Amen. Please stand now as you are able for our opening hymn, #23, Bring Many Names.