

**Vision**  
*the practice of seeing more clearly*  
UU Community Church of Santa Monica  
Small Group Ministry  
July 2013

**Welcome and Explanations**

**Chalice Lighting**

We gather in reverence before the wonder of life

*The wonder of this moment*

The wonder of being together, so close yet so apart

*Each hidden in our own secret chamber*

Each listening, each trying to speak

*Yet none fully understanding, none fully understood.*

We gather in reverence before all intangible things that eyes see not, nor ears can detect

*That hands can never touch, that space cannot hold, and time cannot measure.*

- 439, "We Gather in Reverence" Sophia Lyon Fahs

**Check-in / On Our Hearts 20 minutes**

**Covenant**

**Readings**

i thank You God for most this amazing day:

for the leaping greenly spirits of trees

and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything

which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(I who have died am alive again today,  
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth  
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any—lifted from the no  
of all nothing—human merely being  
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

-- 504 e.e. cummings

It has seemed to me sometimes as though the Lord breathes on this poor gray ember of Creation and it turns to radiance - for a moment or a year or the span of a life. And then it sinks back into itself again, and to look at it no one would know it had anything to do with