

Surrender
UU Community Church of Santa Monica
Small Group Ministry
August 2013

Welcome and Explanations

Chalice Lighting

Each of us brings a separate truth here,
We bring the truth of our own life, our own story.
We don't come as empty vessels...
But rather we come as full people—people who have our own story and our own truth...
Together we have truths.
Together we have a story.
Together we are a community.
-Penny Hackett-Evans

Check-in / On Our Hearts 20 minutes

Covenant

Readings

We are all dying to give our lives away to something, maybe. God or Satan, politics or grammar, topology or philately - the object seemed incidental to this will to give ourselves away, utterly. To games or needle, to some other person.
-- David Foster Wallace

The proper name of this religion is Islam. Derived from the root *s-l-m*, which means primarily "peace" but in a secondary sense "surrender," its full connotation is "the peace that comes when one's life is surrendered to God." This makes Islam - together with Buddhism, from *budh*, awakening, - one of the two religions that is named after the attribute it seeks to cultivate; in Islam's case, life's total surrender to God.
- Huston Smith, *The World's Religions*

I sometimes wonder whether the act of surrender is not one of the greatest of all - the highest. It is one of the most difficult of all...You see it's so immensely complicated. It needs real humility and at the same time, an absolute belief in one's own essential freedom. It is an act of faith. At the last moments, like all great acts, it is pure risk. This is true for me as a human being and as a writer. Dear heaven how hard it is to let go - to step into the blue. And yet one's creative life depends on it and one desires to do nothing else.
-- Katherine Mansfield

At fifteen life had taught me undeniably that surrender, in its place, was as honorable as resistance, especially if one had no choice.
-- Maya Angelou