

**Chalice Lighting** – “Together in Sacred Space” (by Lorelei Greenwood-Jones)

**Leader: In this sacred place, we need not be alone. We seek a listening ear, a warm heart, open arms.**

**Congregation:** In this sacred place, we join together against the waves of negativity and oppression in our world.

**Leader: We are a community of individual beings, living our own lives, yet coming together now and then in joyous celebration of Spirit and one another.**

**Congregation:** Our differences do not divide us; rather, they are a source of interest and discovery. We need not think alike to love alike.

**Leader: Here, joys are shared, and sorrows comforted. We are Seen and Heard and Believed.**

**Congregation:** My compassion overflows; our hearts reach for others.

**Leader: We are a gathering of like-hearted people, and here are our hearts filled. We hear the wisdom and counsel of our ministers and that of one another.**

**Congregation:** We have much to learn from each other, so many different colors of truth and ways and methods.

**Leader: In this sacred place, may we find what our spirits desire, and what our spirits need. May we be grounded in love and sharing.**

**Congregation:** In this sacred place, may we find acceptance and consideration. May our actions and words echo what we learn here.

**Litany of Compassion – (Responsive Reading)**

**In the] spirit of love, harmony, and remembrance, we stand too often divided, too often set apart from one another in heedless ways. We seek to be compassionate but our vision may be clouded or distracted. We too often go forward, day by day, and look without seeing.**

MAY WE REACH OUT IN HONESTY AND LOVE

**May we work to heal the divisions which separate earth's children, one from another. May we peer through the mists of deception which hide and deny violence, mists enclosing those who suffer. May we not allow the misuse of our fellow souls to hide in broad daylight.**

MAY WE REACH OUT IN HONESTY AND LOVE

**When we see the afflicted--however they may be afflicted--may we not shrink away. May we not blame suffering on the one who suffers. May we be courageous enough to perceive suffering and compassionate enough to attend to the voices of those who suffer.**

MAY WE REACH OUT IN HONESTY AND LOVE

**When we see prejudice, when we hear evil speaking, when we witness the rough hand or the scathing word laid upon the helpless or innocent, may we resolve to work toward unity and justice.**

MAY WE REACH OUT IN HONESTY AND LOVE

**May we not turn away from the wounded head of the abused. May we not accept the twisted reasoning by which the oppressor declares himself the victim.**

MAY WE REACH OUT IN HONESTY AND LOVE

**Let our gratitude for good fortune in our lives lead us not to complacency but to awareness, awareness of those whose lives are shadowed by abuse or neglect, May we not ignore signs of deceit or denial that hide brutality.**

MAY WE REACH OUT IN HONESTY AND LOVE

**In all things, may those who suffer ever be able to approach us: find a kindly ear and supporting hand. May we witness for love and justice at every level of relationship. May we nurture a keen eye and a strong and loving heart for any who fear the hurtful rod, the cutting voice, the uneven hand, the chain of oppression, great or small.**

MAY WE REACH OUT IN HONESTY AND LOVE.

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/litany/litany-compassion>