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**Order of Service**

**Sunday, April 20, 2025**

**Sounding of the Bell**

**Prelude**

**Invocation:** *Fitted for This Day* by Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson

**Opening Hymn:** *#61 Lo, the Earth Awakes Again*

**Welcome**

**Lesson:** *Mark 16:1-8*

**Prayer**

**Placing the Stones**

 You are invited to place a stone in our chalice bowl.

**Lighting the Chalice**

With hope to make this a better world, we light this flame.
Its light is a symbol of the power of love.

**Doxology by Isaac Watts**

From all that dwell below the skies, let songs of hope and faith arise,
Let peace, good will on earth be sung, through every land, by every tongue.

**Reading:** *dat Black Mermaid Man/Lady/dem Blessings #34* by Sharon Bridgforth

**Anthem:** *The Light That Will Lead You Home* by Stuart Chapman Hill

**Sermon Part I:** *You Can’t Kill Joy* by Rev. Nathan Ryan

**Offertory:** *Spring* by Dominick Argento/Thomas Nash

Our **April** shared offering goes to **Louisiana Bucket Brigade.**

**Reading:** *Beyond Every Door* by Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

**Sermon Part II:** *A Walk in the Woods* by Kathy E. Smith

**Hymn:** *#38 Morning Has Broken*

**Sermon Part III:** by Rev. Chris Long

**Hymn:** *Hymn to Nature* by Traditional/Earle Ramsdell

**Reading:** *A Double Sonnet* by Jason B. Crawford

**Sermon Conclusion**

**Closing Hymn:** *Joy Comes Back* by Ruthie Foster/Sean Staples

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Flowers provided by **Wendy Maclure** for the one year anniversary of son Joshua’s near fatal accident.