

Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

March 31, 2024

"Say This Isn't the End?"

with

Reverend Janet Newton

"I say this might be the end we've always needed to begin again. I say this may be the end to let us hope to heal, to evolve, reach the stars. Again I'll say: heal, evolve, reach and become the stars that became us — whether or not this is or is not our end."

- Richard Blanco, from his poem *Say This Isn't the End*

Ringing the Bell

Welcome and Community Connection

Chris Seidel

Prelude

Andy Herr

Call to Worship & Chalice Lighting

Rev. Janet

***Opening Hymn** *Enter, Rejoice and Come In*

#361

Time for All Ages

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Chris Seidel

Silent Meditation (~2 minutes)

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Janet

Sung Response *Loosen* by Aly Halpert

Loosen, loosen, baby

You don't have to carry

The weight of the world in your muscles and bones

Let go, let go, let go

Holy breath, and holy name

Will you ease, will you ease this pain?

Holy breath, and holy name

Will you ease, will you ease this pain?

Offering

Chris Seidel

Offertory

Andy Herr

***Hymn** *Strong Enough* by Marni Hoffman

You are strong enough to weather this storm
 You are brave enough to follow the warmth
 Sudden change is never easy
 Saying goodbye is never fair
 But you are strong enough,
 Yes you are still here

Reflection (Part 1) *Say This Isn't the End*

Rev. Janet

***Hymn** *May I Be Empty* by Batya Levine

May I be empty and open to receive the light
 May I be empty and open to receive
 May I be full and open to receive the light
 May I be full and open to receive

Reflection (Part 2) *Say This Isn't the End*

Rev. Janet

***Closing Hymn** *The Course* by Ayla Nereo

I'll fetch the water
 And I will be the course
 And I will call the rain
 I will call the rain.

Chalice Extinguishing and Benediction

Rev. Janet

Postlude

Andy Herr

Thank you to our volunteers Bill Bridwell, Kristen & Ewell Hopkins, for our service support, Linda Moffat providing refreshments and Laura Beebe for visual arts/flowers for today's service.

Need Someone to Listen?

In addition to pastoral care from Rev. Janet, your Lay Ministers (Bill Bridwell, Jan Casey, Kevin Longval) to lend support to anyone in our UUSMV community in their time of need through listening and offering comfort. You can reach them individually by calling: Jan Casey (508-942-3643), Bill Bridwell (774-563-8542), Kevin Longval (781-249-4712) or reach out to uu.society.mv@gmail.com

***Date Change**

How to Take Part in Our Conversation on the Proposed Changes to Article 2 with Rev. Janet

Please note the first in-person session will be on Sunday, April 14 after our service.

