

# Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

October 20, 2024

## *The Sacred Art of Listening*

with Rev. Vicky Hanjian

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*Listen! Can you hear it? The Spirit is Calling. It calls us in silence and through the noise... It doesn't matter what you call it for it has no names and it has many different names... It's calling us to greater wholeness, greater connections, greater service, greater love. It's calling us to heal the brokenness ... It's calling us to beauty.*

- John Saxon

### **Ringing the Bell**

**Welcome and Community Connection**

Sheila Hanley and Karen Sankey

**Prelude**

Peter Halperin

**Opening Words and Chalice Lighting**

Sheila Hanley and Karen Sankey

*Always a Voice Arises* - Written by Rev. Scott Taylor

As we light this flame, may we hear what it has to say.

Come back to your center, it calls.

Return to the quiet it whispers.

The quiet we long for, and that longs for us.

From this stillness, always a voice arises, if we let it.

So come friends, let us listen once again.

Let us find that flame inside, that guides us back home.

**Hymn #112** *Do You Hear?*

Peter Halperin

**Candles of Joy and Concern**

**Pastoral Prayer**

Rev. Vicky Hanjian

**Pledge Testimonial**

Peter Meleney

**Offering**

**Offertory Music**

Peter Halperin

**Reading** *Psalms 19: 1-4*

Rev. Vicky Hanjian

**Sermon** *The Sacred Art of Listening*

Rev. Vicky Hanjian

**Closing Hymn** *The Sound of Silence* by Paul Simon

Peter Halperin

Hello darkness, my old friend  
 I've come to talk with you again  
 Because a vision softly creeping  
 Left its seeds while I was sleeping  
 And the vision that was planted in my  
 brain  
 Still remains  
 Within the sound of silence  
 In restless dreams, I walked alone  
 Narrow streets of cobblestone  
 'Neath the halo of a street lamp  
 I turned my collar to the cold and damp  
 When my eyes were stabbed by the flash  
 of a neon light  
 That split the night  
 And touched the sound of silence  
 And in the naked light, I saw  
 Ten thousand people, maybe more  
 People talking without speaking  
 People hearing without listening  
 People writing songs that voices never  
 shared  
 And no one dared  
 Disturb the sound of silence

"Fools" said I, "You do not know  
 Silence like a cancer grows  
 Hear my words that I might  
 teach you  
 Take my arms that I might reach  
 you"  
 But my words, like silent  
 raindrops fell  
 And echoed in the wells of  
 silence  
 And the people bowed and  
 prayed  
 To the neon god they made  
 And the sign flashed out its  
 warning  
 In the words that it was forming  
 Then the sign said, "The words  
 on the prophets are written on  
 the subway walls  
 In tenement halls"  
 And whispered in the sound of  
 silence

**Final Benediction**

Rev . Vicky Hanjian

**Postlude**

Peter Halperin

Thank you to our volunteers Bill Bridwell, Kevinn Longval & Karen Sankey for our service support, Sheila Hanley providing refreshments and for visual arts/flowers.

**Pastoral Coverage and Care**

Rev. Vicki Hanjian will provide pastoral care. She can be reached at 508-696-8225 or [av.hanjian@verizon.net](mailto:av.hanjian@verizon.net)

**Need Someone to Listen?**

Reach out to our Lay Ministers:

Jan Casey - 508-942-3643, Bill Bridwell - 774-563-8542, Kevin Longval - 781-249-4712

they are available to lend support to anyone in our UUSMV community in their time of need, being available to listen and offer comfort. You can find their email contact information in the member's section of the website: [www.uusmv.org](http://www.uusmv.org)

