

Plymouth June 2026

Joy Gleeson

The gift of our sense and of Helen Keller

Opening music: Neil Douglas Klotz -a healing field

Welcome and light Unitarian chalice

Introduction to story of Helen Keller whose birth anniversary was yesterday. How she overcame the loss of her sight and hearing to blossom and share her gifts with the world

HYMN

151 Be Thou my vision;

Link to gratitude for all our senses

While preparing for today, I was sitting in the sunshine, listening to a peal of bells from the church . in the town below. I could smell the Wisteria blossom and feel the warmth in the ground beneath my feet. I became aware of birdsong and the gentle trickle of water. I am so grateful for all my senses, even though I had to hunt high and low for my reading glasses so I could see the computer screen more clearly.

First reading:

At the river Clarion

The poet encourages us into looking deeply, deep listening and tender integration into nature, our surroundings and our frail humanity. A Unitarian minister friend said recently that she thinks our individual services all come back to a central theme and this is mine: the desire to go on seeking a deeper connection with my creator through a more intimate and intense relationship with Creation.

2nd Hymn no 88 Let it be a dance we do

I was fortunate to be able to visit Australia at the end of last year/beginning of this , deepening connection with family and with the history, culture flora and fauna. Australia has been inhabited for 69,000 years. The First Nations People have a remarkable, to my eyes, culture of listening, not just to the speaker in their presence but also to the ancestors, living and dead through their stories, songs, dances and to Country - to the sounds sights and signs in Nature and the earth beneath their feet.

Lead into meditation with 2nd reading

Prayers like stones Meister Elkhart

Meditation music Listen by Christy Moore

Follow with o fire of the Holy Spirit

Address

Final hymn no 125

One More Step

blessing

Final music gifts through adversity like Helen Keller pin ball wizard

