**Transitions Through Elements of the Service**

Transitions are an important part of setting the desired tone and mood of a service. Giving thought to the words we choose to introduce elements of the service will make a big difference. Following are a few examples. These can be used as is or freely adapted. But better still, they can inspire the service leader find her or his own words.

**Introducing the chime and silent centering**

Let us begin by taking a few moments of silence to let the day to day cares of our lives fall away and see our lives in a different way, with an inner eye.

**Introducing the chalice lighting**

It is our tradition to light the chalice, which casts a circle of light in which we are safe to think, to feel, to share, to love, and to support and challenge each other in our growth.

We begin each service by lighting the chalice, the symbol of Unitarian Universalism. By lighting the chalice we tell ourselves we are entering a different realm. Within the circle of light cast by the chalice we find a space in which we are safe to explore the depth and breadth of ourselves and our world, the sacred space of this religious community.

**Introducing the sharing of joys and concerns**

We take time in our service to share with our fellowship joys, concerns and other things of importance in our lives. Please feel free to come forward and light a candle if you wish to share what is in your heart.

It is our tradition to take a moment to share joys that are too great to keep to ourselves or concerns that are too heavy to carry alone. If you would like you may come forward and share what is in your heart and mind, and as you do so, I will light I candle for you.

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I will light one more candle for those joys and concerns that remain, unspoken, in our hearts.

**Introducing the offertory**

One of the ways we need each other is a very practical one: by the sharing of our resources to have the means to meet and carry on the work of this congregation. Please be as generous as you are able as the basket passes.

This congregation exists through the generosity of its members, through contributions of time, energy, talent and money. As the basket passes, please contribute whatever you feel is appropriate for you to give.