

Opening words (from “Sunday Spell” by Mark Belletini) (these are slightly adapted)

And now it is all transformed.

Like wizardry.

Like magic.

Something like abracadabra,

but without the rabbits

or infinitely deep black hats.

The transformation is almost upon us.

Time measured by the hands of clocks

is now changed into time measured by breath,

in and out, in and out.

Time measured by memories and worries,

is now changed into time crafted

by the next heartbeat and the next.

Time’s shadow stretching on a sundial

now changes into time’s unsurpassed brightness

shining on the present second.

It's almost here,
a magic trick no different
from the first second of creation.
I am pulling the curtain back.
I am turning the card.
Look, it's the card you guessed.

And so with those words of the Rev. Mark Belletini, I welcome you to the worship service of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. And what a magic trick it is to gather a congregation—to gather us—from here there and everywhere—it is a beautiful thing indeed and I am so glad you are with us.

And...I am glad that the CLF's board chair, Denny Davidoff, is with us as well. Denny's term is up—it's unthinkable really—and so she will be welcoming you for the last time as the chair of our board. Her skill and generosity and love have been immeasurable. We will not applaud, though of course she deserves it—instead I ask you to sing one of Denny's favorite hymns with enthusiasm in her honor.

Will you join me please in singing **For All That Is Our Life**, printed in your order of service.

