

Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday, January 10, 2021 via Zoom

Make Your Own Bible

Music for Gathering

Alway Something Sings

words by Ralph Waldo Emerson, music by Dan Forrest

Welcome

Jennifer Revill

Opening Words

Emerson's Bold Idea

Jennifer Revill

Opening Hymn

Down the Ages We Have Trod

words by John Andrew Storey, music by

Thomas Benjamin, J. Hofmann, piano

Helen Brandt, song leader

Introduction to the Small Group Ministry project and members

Chalice Lighting

Holly Willsey-Walker

We call this light before us in hope that we may always remain a strong community, working together to make the world a better place. When we are grieving or sad, when we are challenged, when we need help, this flame guides us out of the darkness. When we are cheerful, when we celebrate, when we accomplish a great task, when we return to a place that makes us happy, the chalice reminds us to share our happiness with others. – Atticus Palmer

Sharing of Cares & Celebrations

Meditation

from *Our Life is a Work of Art*, by Thich Naht Hanh

Marty Langlois

MAKE YOUR OWN BIBLE Small Group Ministry Presentations

Holly Willsey-Walker, Emeline Walker, Marty Langlois and Jennifer Revill

Offertory

Closing Hymn

Blessed Spirit of My Life

words and music by Shelley Jackson Denham

performed at First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

Announcements

Blessing

May love surround us. May joy gladden us,
May peace lie deep within. And may our lives,
and the lives of all those we touch, go well. - Edwin C. Lynn

Music Notes

Always Something Sings

The Poem "Music" appeared in a collection entitled "Poems" published in 1904, more than twenty years after Emerson's death. The Transcendentalists believed that each individual could transcend, or move beyond, the physical world of the senses into deeper spiritual experience through free will and intuition. The ordinary things of life, good and bad, are blessings, as they can prompt a spiritual awakening.

*Let me go where'er I will,
I bear a sky-born music still:
It sounds from all things old,
It sounds from all things young,
From all that's fair, from all that's foul,
Always something sings.*

*It is not only in the rose,
It is not only in the bird,
Not only where the rainbow glows,
Nor in the song of woman heard,
But in the darkest, meanest things
There always, always something sings.*

*T'is not in the high stars alone,
Nor in the cup of budding flowers,
Nor in the robin's mellow tone,
Nor in the bow that smiles in showers,
But in the mud and in the darkest, meanest things
There always, always something sings.*

Down the Ages We Have Trod

This hymn may be considered a lesson in UU theology. The lyrics below were written by John Andrew Storey, a British UU minister who wrote 32 hymns for the 1985 British Unitarian collection *Hymns for the Living*.

*Down the ages we have trod many paths in search of God
Seeking ever to define the Eternal and Divine.*

*Some have seen eternal good picture best in Parenthood,
And a Being throned above ruling over us in love.*

*There are others who proclaim God and Nature are the same,
And the present Godhead own where Creation's laws are known.*

*There are eyes which best can see God within humanity,
And God's countenance there trace written in the human face.*

*Where compassion is most found is for some the hallowed ground,
And these paths they upward plod teaching us that love is God.*

*Though the truth we can't perceive this at least we must believe,
What we take most earnestly is our living Deity.*

*Our true God we there shall find in what claims our heart and mind,
And our hidden thoughts enshrine that which for us is Divine.*

Blessed Spirit of My Life

This song is a prayer. And wow, what a prayer. It is gentle to self even as it calls for strength. It is a quiet prayer of preparation, of focus and stillness. This is the song we should be singing every morning, not just an occasional Sunday or a random Wednesday. From Notes from the Far Fringe

I (Helen) had the pleasure of knowing the songwriter, Shelley Jackson Denham, resident musician of The Mountain, UU Camp and Conference Center in Highlands, NC. Shelley was an amazing songwriter, able to touch the deepest parts of the human spirit. Several of her songs are included in our hymnal. Shelley died prematurely about one year after the sudden death of her beloved husband. Her life demonstrates the final words of her hymn, "Then when life is done with me, let love be my legacy."

*Blessed spirit of my life, give me strength through stress and strife;
help me live with dignity, let me know serenity.*

Fill me with a vision, clear my mind of fear and confusion.

When my thoughts flow restlessly, let peace find a home in me.

Spirit of great mystery, hear the still, small voice in me.

Help me live my wordless creed as I comfort those in need.

Fill me with compassion, be the source of my intuition.

Then, when life is done for me, let love be my legacy.