

What Does It Mean to be a People of Wonder

People go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motions of the stars, and they pass by themselves without wondering.

— *St. Augustine*

One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, "What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?"

— *Rachel Carson*

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.

— *Albert Einstein*

Preliminaries

Announce upcoming church events; get a volunteer to light the chalice, and 3 readers to read the readings printed on the back of the order of service.

Centering Practice

Opening / Chalice Lighting -- Cynthia Landrum (from UU WorshipWeb)

For the wonder and inspiration
We seek from sun and stars
And all the lights of the heavens
We light this chalice.

Check-in

Take a minute or two to share briefly the high and low points in your life since we last met.

Reading — Rev. Rebecca Parker

Perhaps for a moment the typewriters will stop clicking, the wheels stop rolling, the computers desist from computing, and a hush will fall over the city.

For an instant, in the stillness, the chiming of celestial spheres will be heard as earth hangs poised in the crystalline darkness, and then gracefully tilts.

Let there be a season when holiness is heard and the splendor of living is revealed. Stunned to stillness by beauty we remember who we are and why we are here. There are inexplicable

mysteries. We are not alone. In the universe there moves a Wild One whose gestures alter earth's axis toward love. In the immense darkness everything spins with joy.

The cosmos enfolds us. We are caught in a web of stars, cradled in a swaying embrace, rocked by the holy night, babes of the universe.

Let this be the time we wake to life, as spring awakes in the moment of winter solstice.

Sitting in Silence

Sharing/ Deep Listening

Deeply listening, without response or thought of response at this time, is the gift we give and receive as we share our thoughts on the preparation for this session.

Discussion

This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.

Singing — *George David Weiss and Bob Thiele*

I see trees of green, red roses too, I see them bloom for me and you, and I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

I see skies of blue and clouds of white, the bright blessed day, the dark sacred night, and I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky, also on the faces of people goin' by, see friends shakin' hands sayin' "How do you do?" They're really sayin' "I love you!" I hear babies cry, I watch them grow. They'll learn much more than I'll ever know and I think to myself, what a wonderful world. Yes, I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

Extinguishing the Chalice — *Marjorie Newlin Leaming (from UUA Worship Web)*

Join hands or link arms and read aloud together:

Remembering that the universe is so much larger than our ability to comprehend, let us go forth from this time together with the resolve to stop trying to reduce the incomprehensible to our own petty expectations, so that wonder — the sense of what is sacred — can find space to open up our minds and illumine our lives.