



*No matter who you are, or where you are
on life's journey, all of you is welcome here.*

UCC Petaluma - a Community of Love in Service
Sunday, April 21, 2024

This Week's Loving Action: Responsibility

*To account for and reform one's words and actions
toward a greater good that is workable for self & others.
A justice-based commitment not to being right,
but rather to getting it more right with and for others.*

GATHERING LIGHT

Jason Howze

For the Beauty of the Earth

*New Century Hymnal #28
Corey Wilson, Voice*

UNISON CALL TO PRESENCE

Joe Perrault

No matter who you are
or where you are on Life's Journey
All of you is welcome here.

SING

Deportee

music by Martin Hoffman lyrics by Woody Guthrie

~ on screen ~

INVITATION TO PRAYERFUL SILENCE

Rev. Jason Hubbard

"What Does the Earth Say?"

by William Stafford

SHARING STORIES OF JOY & CONCERN

RESPONSE TO PRAYERFUL SILENCE

Psalm 23

Translated from the Hebrew in the 2nd person using dynamic equivalence

~ see insert~

SACRED READINGS

Genesis 1:26-28

**A Summary of The Passover: Exodus 3,12-14 **

~ see insert ~

TEACHING

A CIRCLE OF GENEROCITY

Brown-Eyed Children of the Sun

by Daniel Valdez

Arr. Jason Howze ~ Corey Wilson, voice

SING

Deportee

music by Martin Hoffman lyrics by Woody Guthrie

~ on screen ~

BLESSING SONG

May the Road Rise to Meet You

~on screen~

Your Community Gathering Leaders Today:

Reader: Joe Perrault
Accompanist: *Jason Howze*
Voice: Corey Wilson
Greeter: Tom Joynt

Bass: Ben Dubin
Percussion: Shane Schlick
AVTech: Chris Cota
Coffee: Mark Reischling

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What Does the Earth Say?

By William Stafford

The earth says: have a place,
be what that place requires;
hear the sound the birds imply
and see as deep as ridges go behind each other.

(Some people call their scenery flat,
their only pictures framed by what they know:
I think, around them rise a riches and a loss
too equal for their chart — but absolutely tall.)

The earth says every summer have a ranch
that's minimum: one tree, one well, a landscape
that proclaims a universe — sermon
of the hills, hallelujah mountain,
highway guided by the way the world is tilted,
reduplication of mirage, flat evening:
a kind of ritual for the wavering.

The earth says: where you live,
wear the kind of color that your life is
(grey shirt for me)
and by listening

with the same bowed head that sings,
draw all things into one song,
join the sparrow on the lawn,
and row that easy way,
the rage without met by the wings within
that guide you anywhere the wind blows.
Listening, I think that's what the earth says.



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Sacred Readings

Psalm 23

Oh Love, you are my shepherd,
I have need of nothing more
You call me to release
into an already-present abundance.
You lead me to depths that are like still waters
You restore my soul.

You guide me in Love's name,
along a path of redeeming justice.
Even as I walk through valleys of darkness
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff are not weapons,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table for me
in the presence of my enemy;
You anoint my head with oil - my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and loving-kindness
will pursue me all my days.
And I shall live in the house of Love
who has sent me into the world,
my whole life long.

Genesis 1:26-28 Love spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature - so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of earth.” Love created human beings; created them godlike, reflecting a Divine nature. Love created them in every gender and blessed them: “Prosper! Fill Earth! Step Up! Be responsible like a great servant leader for the fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of earth.”

A summary of Passover: Exodus 3,12-14:

And Love spoke: “Commemorate the liberation story of the Israelites who were enslaved by Pharaoh. When the symbolic power of inheritance and domination in Egypt was pushed back - and the power of Love passed over the marginalized and vulnerable to free those who were not dominators. Pharaoh said, “Get out of here - I’m done with you - take your sheep and cattle as you’ve insisted, but go. So the people moved hastily - taking their dough before the yeast had risen and left Egypt with all they had. Pharaoh soon sent his army to kill them in fearful anger and when the people came to an impossible boundary to their freedom, the Red Sea, Moses stretched out his hand over the water; and Love drove the sea back with a strong east wind all night, turning it into dry land. The people went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and left. Love’s promise to them was to be servants and sustainers of a land flowing with milk and honey, a land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.