

PERSONAL RELIGIOUS JOURNEY

May 27, 2020

Candle Lighting and Opening Words:

Song Lyrics:

Must have been late after noon.

I could tell by how far the child's shadow stretched out.

And he walked with a purpose in his sneakers down the street.

He had many questions like children often do.

He said, "Tell me all your thoughts on God. And tell me, am I very far?"

Must have been late after noon. On our way, the sun broke free of the clouds.

We count only blue cars skip the cracks in the street And ask many questions like children often do.

We said, "Tell me all your thoughts on God, 'Cause I'd really like to meet her.

And ask her why we're who we are."

Tell me all your thoughts on God, 'Cause I'm on my way to see her.

So tell me, am I very far, Am I very far now

It's getting cold, picked up the pace. How our shoes make hard noises in this place.

Our clothes are stained, we pass the money, cross our people

And ask many questions like children often do.

We said, Tell me all your thoughts on God, 'Cause I'd really like to meet her.

And ask her why we're who we are.

Tell me all your thoughts on God, 'Cause I'm on my way to see her.

So tell me am I very far, Am I very far now?

Tell me all your thoughts on God.

Tell me all your thoughts on God.

Check-In:

Focus Readings:

Constant development is the law of life, and a man who always tries to maintain his dogmas in order to appear consistent drives himself into a false position. -Mahatma Gandhi

Over the years, I think I've matured in my spiritual evolution and development to understand a bit more than the narrow religious thinking--to move beyond that through a sort of perfection of the grandiose nature of the universe, and how perfect it is in its sense and how satisfied we should all be in our place in that. -Buzz Aldrin

Our beliefs are varied, but we are united by our mortality. We may not know death, but we know loss. We may not see what's next, but we seek assurance. Let love both ease our death, and soothe our soul. -Kate Walker, Unitarian Universalist minister

"Church is not just about providing ecclesiastical services; hopefully it does things not just for you, but to you. Religion is not just about giving and getting; it is not just about services rendered, it is about change." From *Consumer Religion* by Rev. Stephan Papa

"There are some people who are just not interested in churches, especially so far as adult men and women are concerned. They believe, or seem to believe, that adult men and women are not capable of change and growth. I know that to be false, for through the years I have seen the growing process going on. I have seen people come newly awake to larger

ideas and more significant purposes for their lives. I have seen in people a growing dissatisfaction with their own personal isolation and a new desire to become part of the community allied with groups dedicated to better ways of life for all people. I have seen people become newly concerned with the ideas that battle in our turbulent era, and, becoming more informed through reading, through study, through discussion, make their lives count joyously and rewardingly in the furtherance of those ideas. I have seen people suddenly discover the joy and satisfaction to be found in worship, which is the community coming together periodically to clarify its ideals and strengthen its purposes. The church futile? Not when it does this for people—and I know it does.” From Dr. Tracy Pullman

Moment of Silence for Reflection

Questions:

1. What is your earliest memory of your religious journey?
2. What is your most intense memory of your religious journey?
3. What do you believe happens at the end of your religious journey?
4. Why did you become a UU?

Likes/Wishes

Closing Words:

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.
And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.

--John O'Donohue,
last stanza of Beannacht, from "To Bless the Space Between Us"