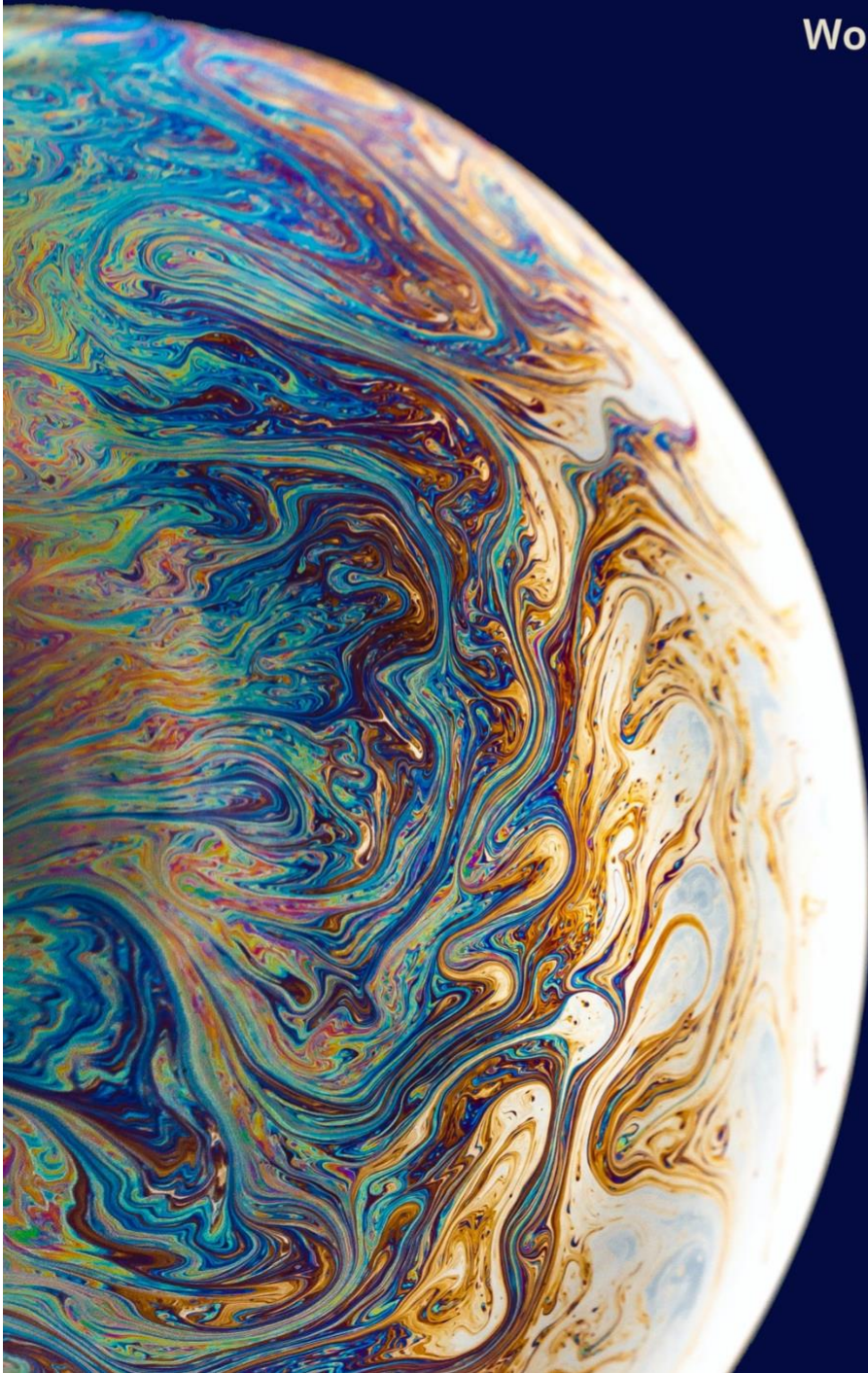


The Path of Creativity

Worship Research
May 2023



Soul Matters

Contents

<i>Calendar Connections</i>	2
<i>Chalice Lightings & Opening Words</i>	3
<i>Meditations, Prayers & Blessings</i>	5
<i>Music</i>	8
<i>Stories For All Ages</i>	12
<i>Sermon Seeds</i>	14
<i>Recommended Sermons</i>	25
<i>Closing Words</i>	27

About Online Permissions, Multi-Platform Support & Referencing Resources

Once again, we're supporting multi-platform worship by researching and noting material that is permissioned for online use. We will identify those online permissioned pieces with an asterisk by the title of the suggested resource, as well as with "permission notes" beneath the title information that document the source of that online permission.

A Reminder About Partial Texts and "Pointing not Publishing": To honor legal and relational standards, we do not include the full pieces of authors' works unless we've received explicit permission to do so. We want all subscribers to clearly understand that our worship packets are research packets not publications, which means we focus on "pointing" to where you can find fair use and publicly available pieces, rather than on "publishing" original writings and full resources. Our main service to you is theme-based *curation* and *research*, done in the service of saving professionals' time.

A Note About Author Titles: Many of the authors we refer to are ministers. Some ministers prefer to be credited with their title "Rev.", others don't, and still others are fine either way. Our practice is to follow whatever practice was used in the source material we reference.

Calendar Connections

May 2023

Click on the name of each event for more information or inspiration.

Interfaith:

- [Beltane](#) (Wiccan) - May 1 (more [here](#))
- [Ascension Day](#) (Christian) - May 18, 2023 (more [here](#))
- [Vesak](#) - Celebration of Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist) - celebrated on April 8, 2021 in [some countries](#) and on various rotating dates in May by [other countries](#). (more [here](#), [here](#), & [here](#))
- [Shavuot](#) (Jewish) - May 25 - 27, 2023 (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Pentecost](#) (Christian) - May 28, 2023 (more [here](#))

Unitarian Universalist:

- Anniversary of [William Ellery Channing's Baltimore Sermon](#), "[Unitarian Christianity](#)" - May 5th (1819)
- [UUA Founding Day](#) (1961) - May 12
- [Emerson's birthday](#) - May 25 (1803)
- American Unitarian Association founded May 25 (1825)

National & Cultural:

- Jewish American Heritage Month
- Asian/ Pacific American Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- [May Day](#)/International Workers Day - May 1 (more [here](#))
- [Cinco de Mayo](#) - May 5
- [Mother's Day](#) (US & Canada) - May 14, 2023, second Sunday of May
- First HIV/AIDS death in North America - May 15 (1969)
- International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17
- [Brown v. Board of Education](#) - May 17 (1954)
- [Agender Pride Day](#) - May 19
- Birthday of [Malcolm X](#) (May 19, 1925)
- [Victoria Day](#) (Canada) May 22, 2023
- Harvey Milk, gay rights activist, born - May 22, 1930
- [Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day](#) - May 24
- Memorial Day (US) - May 29, 2023

For Fun and On the Fringe:

- [World Press Freedom Day](#) - May 3
- [Star Wars Day](#) - May 4
- [World Laughter Day](#) - First Sunday in May
- Debut of "Rosie the Riveter" famous picture by Norman Rockwell, appears on the cover of Saturday Evening Post - May 29, 1943

Chalice Lightings & Opening Words

Do not leave your cares at the door, Rev. Norman V. Naylor *

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/5211.shtml>
[Permission Source](#)

...Come then and offer yourself to potential transformation by the creative process that flows through you and all life.

As We Await a New World, Melissa Jeter *

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/we-await-new-world>
[Permission Source](#)

Inside the womb of this waiting time, we are bathed in sounds, floating in love, growing out of our comfort zone...

Our Shared Hope for the World, Pat Uribe-Lichty *

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/our-shared-hope-world>
[Permission Source](#)

The chalice we light is... a reminder... that our common work is the creation of Beloved Community...

Call to Worship and Action, Rev. Sharon Wylie *

Full piece found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/call-worship-and-action>
[Permission Source](#)

Let this be the place you consider what you've never considered;
Let this be the place you imagine for yourself something new and
unthinkable. May this hour bring dreams of new ways of being in the world...

On The Brink, Rev. Leslie Takahashi *

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/brink>
[Permission Source](#)

All that we have ever loved...
Stands with us on the brink
Of all that we aspire to create...

In The Soft Light of This Flame, Rev. Scott Tayler *

[Permission Secured by Soul Matters](#)

In the soft light of this flame,
may we see life anew.
May the supposedly real
seem less solid.
May the inevitable
reveal its carefully concealed cracks.

It's all made of pieces and parts, friends,
each of them
longing to be rearranged.
Or maybe it's a story,
and the pen is in our hand.

Openings for Mother's Day

Mother's Day Chalice Lighting *

Rev. Claudene (Deane) Oliva

Found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/mothers-day-chalice-lighting-0>

[Permission Source](#)

Come together in praise and thanksgiving *

Rev. Mary J Harrington

Found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/5438.shtml>

[Permission Source](#)

Openings for Memorial Day

We Gather to Remember *

Nicole McKay

Found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/affirmation/we-gather-remember>

[Permission Source](#)

Called by Loss, Called by Peace *

Rev. Heather K Janules

Found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/called-loss-called-peace>

[Permission Source](#)

Openings for Flower Communion

Flower Communion Opening *

Rev. Thomas Rhodes

Found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/flower-communion>

[Permission Source](#)

Meditations, Prayers & Blessings

Prayer of Co-Creation *

Rev. Lyn Cox

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/prayer-co-creation>
[Permission Source](#)

Creative spirit, source of life and love...

Thank you for the good earth beneath us, around us, and within us. May we take this clay and co-create a new realm of justice and beauty.

Thank you for all these and more. We accept our gifts and commit to building, sculpting, painting, singing, and dancing them to life; to abundant life...

Blessed are the Makers *

Rev. Marcus Liefert

[Permission Secured by Soul Matters](#)

Oh you who are makers;
Makers of beauty,
Of paintings and pottery and sculpture,
Blessed is the making.
You who make with hands and hearts and minds,
Who make out of breath and bones and blood human lives,
Blessed are the makers.

Blessed are those who make us laugh,
Who make jokes and faces and toys.

Blessed are those who make messes,
Who make trouble and friends, and when needed, make up.

Blessed are those who make do,
Who make it last, make it work, make beds and make time for others.

Blessed are those who make love,
Who make out and make more and make mistakes.

Blessed are those who make coffee and tea,
Who make conversation, who make meaning in the face of tragedy;
who make merriment and awaken joy.

*Blessed are those who make peace
For they shall inherit the earth.*

Meditation on Planting *

David Snedden

Found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/meditation-planting>
[Permission Source](#)

A celebration of spring and the creative forces giving earth life.

A Calm, Clear Place

Jezibell Anat

Found in [Falling into the Sky](#), UUA worship resource & Soul Matters “[Common Shelf](#)” Book

The Magic of an Empty Palm *

Rev. Theresa I. Soto

Found in [Spilling the Light](#), UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters “[Common Shelf](#)” Book

Creation is Messy *

Rev. Laurel Mendes

[Permission Secured by Soul Matters](#)

Creation is messy,
Inconvenient,
And often uncooperative.

Take a look at the cosmos.

Go ahead, close your eyes and imagine the stars.

When you do, forget the Franz Josef Haydn “spacious firmament” bit. His images are far too tidy.

See the real mess the universe made of itself 14 BILLION years ago.

All of creation is still trying to clean THAT up.

It’s called the Big Bang,
Not the Grand Coalescence,

For a reason.

Mistakes were made (probably),
And incorporated into the whole anyway.

And wonders never cease, here we still are muddling along 14 billion years after the fact.

Now open your eyes and look around you.
You are surrounded by the most astounding miraculous wonder of all:
Each other,
Community,
Life ongoing caring about life ongoing.
So it is.
So it shall be, because we do care

Meditation/Prayer For Beltane

Beltane Garden

Linda Haggerstone

Full piece at <https://worshipwords.unitarian.org.uk/beltane-garden/>

May morning sun blesses the day
While I walk amongst the garden blooms
Admiring the Mother's handiwork
Woven on dear nature's loom...

Meditation/Prayer For Mother's Day

Prayer for All Who Mother *

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/5827.shtml>

[Permission Source](#)

We reflect in thanksgiving this day for all those whose lives have nurtured ours...

We are grateful for all those who have mothered us

Who have held us gently in times of sorrow

Who celebrated with us our triumphs -- no matter how small

Who noticed when we changed and grew...

Meditation/Prayer For Memorial Day

Memorial Day Prayer *

Rev. Barbara J Pescan

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/memorial-day-prayer>

[Permission Source](#)

Spirit of Life...

Send peace for the soldiers who did not make the wars

but whose lives were consumed by them...

For the wounded ones, and those who received them back,

let there be someone ready when the memories come...

Meditation/Prayer For Flower Communion

Flower Communion *

Lynn Ungar

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/flower-communion>

[Permission Source](#)

Who can be grim

in the face of such abundance?...

The voluptuous rhododendron

and the plain grass

are equally filled with themselves,

equally declare the miracles

of color and form...

Music

Soul Matters Music Resources

In addition to the suggestions below, be sure to tap into our other sources of support for music leaders:

- 1. Monthly online musicians' brainstorming group:** We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm eastern time. To join the call use this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5857099120>. No pre-registration necessary.
- 2. Soul Matters Music Support Facebook Page:** This support page is for on-going sharing among Soul Matters musicians. Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=soul%20matters%20musicians%20support>
- 3. Recordings of all of our monthly music brainstorming calls** are available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pHuVaUqAnNPIW9dis3Tz31B4eGxdxebI?usp=sharing>
- 4. An additional [Resource Guide](#)** containing suggestions for public domain sources, free music sources, sheet music purchase sites, etc. This is a living doc and is updated monthly. Any additional suggestions/resources can be submitted to: [Soul Matters Music](#)
- 5. Soul Matters Music Playlists:** We create two different playlists each month: one in Spotify and another in YouTube. This is intended to provide inspiration for our small group participants, but might be useful to musicians. Click [here](#) for links to the Spotify playlists for each month. Click [here](#) to check out the YouTube playlists.
- 6. AUUMM (Association for UU Musicians Ministries) Online Database:** The wonderful leadership of the AUUMM have added our monthly themes to the AUUMM music database. It's a great way to get music suggestions from UUs all around the country. Access the AUUMM Music Database [here](#).

Suggestions For May 2023 - Creativity

from Soul Matters Music Resources Coordinator, [Molly J. Webster](#)

Hymns: Singing the Living Tradition - permissioned

All of the hymns listed below have permissions for in-person performance, live streaming and online recording/archiving, assuming you have legally obtained copies of the UU hymnals and unless otherwise noted. ([Permission Source](#))

- 21 - For the Beauty of the Earth
- 22 - Dear Weavers of Our Lives' Design
- 28 - View the Starry Realm
- 37 - God Who Fills the Universe
- 47 - Now on Land and Sea Descending
- 81 - Wordless Mountains Bravely Still
- 207 - Earth Was Given as a Garden
- 282 - Let the Whole Creation Cry
- 283 - The Spacious Firmament on High
- 288 - All Are Architects
- 319 - Ye Earthborn Children of a Star
- 320 - The Pen is Greater (permission granted if credit given to David Dawson)
- 330 - The Arching Sky of Morning Glows
- 343 - A Firemist and a Planet
- 398 - To See the World

Hymns: Singing the Journey - permissioned

All of the hymns listed below have permissions for in-person performance, live streaming and online recording/archiving, assuming you have legally obtained copies of the UU hymnals and unless otherwise noted. ([Permission Source](#))

1003 - Where Do We Come From

1051 - We Are...

Hymns: Singing the Living Tradition - permissions needed

The following permissions are needed if using in streaming/hybrid/online recorded services

36 - When in Our Music (words: Hope Publishing Co., One License)

77 - Seek Not Afar for Beauty (music: Hope Publishing Co., One License)

175 - We Celebrate the Web of Life (permission granted with written credits as follows: Lyrics by Alicia S. Carpenter, c. 1981, used with permission from the Estate of Alicia Carpenter)

289 - A Creative Love, Our Thanks We Give (harmony: Oxford Press, One License)

298 - Wake, Now, My Senses (harmony: Abingdon Press, One License)

Hymns: Singing the Journey - permissions needed

The following permissions are needed if using in streaming/hybrid/online recorded services

1001 - Breaths (music: CCS, WorshipCast)

1038 - The 23rd Psalm (original artist, CCS)

Contemporary Suggestions - permissions needed

*If you are streaming your services/are hybrid, please note that all copyright permissions are your responsibility to obtain***

- Woyaya (one example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fn2hGyHMIBI&t=22s>)
- If I Had a Hammer - Peter, Paul, and Mary
- Vincent - Don McLean
- Rewrite - Paul Simon
- A Beginning Song - Decemberists
- Viva La Vida - Coldplay
- Embroidery - Casey Dienel
- Songs Out of Clay - Al Stewart
- Andy Warhol - David Bowie
- Paperback Writer - Beatles
- The Night Watch - King Crimson

Please note: the artists listed above generally are the performers of the works and not always/necessarily the songwriters, please do your due diligence in seeking out crediting info. Many of the above songs can be found on JWPepper, MusicNotes.com and the Chords/Tabs for most of the above can be found here:

[Ultimate Guitar](#)

[Ukulele Chords/Tabs - Free to Transpose](#)

[Chordify](#)

Choral/Vocal

All listed music can be found on JWPepper and can be located by following the link or searching by title.

- [So Still - SATB - Tate](#)
- [We Reply - SATB](#)
- [Nightscapes - SATB](#)
- [Under the Painted Sky - SA](#)
- [When in Our Music God is Glorified - SATB](#)
- [Paint Me - SSA](#)
- [A Palette to Paint Us as We Are - SATB, SSA](#)
- [Who Paints the Night - SATB](#)
- [I Had a Paintbox - SA](#)
- [Characters to Paint - SATB](#)
- [The Artist Teaches Us All - unison, 2pt](#)
- [On Music - SSA](#)
- [To Music - unison, SSA, opt strings](#)
- [Sweet Would Be My Prayers - SATB](#)
- [For a Certain Artist - 2pt](#)
- [A Celebration of Creative Worship - SATB](#)
- [In a Mother's Heart - unison, 2pt](#)
- [Mother's Song - SATB Divisi](#)
- [Mother to Son - SA](#)
- [Link to UUA Database with song list of Creativity/Art/Music pieces](#)

Instrumental/Handbell

- [Creator of the Stars of Night - 3 - 5va](#)
- [Creator of Light - 3 - 5va](#)
- [When in Our Music God is Glorified - 3 - 6va, Organ, SATB](#)
- [To Music - 3va](#)
- [Garden of the Muses - organ](#)
- [Mother Heroic - organ - Bjork](#)

Music for Online Worship from UUA

The following videos may be used in online and recorded worship services by Unitarian Universalist congregations. The music that follows does not require additional permission for online use (see sidebar). However, be sure to provide full attribution to the composers and lyricists on your screens, not just verbally, for each piece that you incorporate into worship.

These videos are intended to lighten the burdens imposed by online worship. They should not be used to justify decreasing the wages or positions of professional music staff. ([Permission Source](#))

- ["To See a World" \(GoogleDrive\)](#) (#398 in *Singing the Living Tradition*; words by William Blake, music traditional Norwegian, arranged by Edvard Grieg.) Video by the UU Virtual Singers of the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos, NM; Nylea Butler-Moore, Music Director; Rick Bolton, AV Engineer. If you use this video, please email Nylea at nyleab@uulosalamos.org. [Pay-what-you-can to the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos.](#)

- Please visit the [Oneness of Everything playlist \(YouTube\)](#), created by Paul Thompson (Music Director at the UU Church of the Palouse, Moscow ID), of multiple hymns from our UU hymnals. Please make a pay-what-you-can [donation](#).
- ["Blue Boat Home" \(YouTube\)](#) (words by Peter Mayer; #1064 in *Singing the Journey*). Created by Paul Thompson (Music Director at the UU Church of the Palouse, Moscow ID). Please make a pay-what-you-can [donation](#).
- ["We Are" by Dr. Ysaÿe Barnwell \(Vimeo\)](#), performed by Dr. Ysaÿe Barnwell and the UUA General Assembly 2020 virtual choir. Produced and directed by Benjie Messer. Video Editing and Motion Graphics by Izzy Hyman. Audio Editing by Sam Plattner. Photos by Clint McKoy, Christopher L. Walton, Paul Becker, Janine Gelsinger, and contributed by members of the choir. All audio and videos was captured by musicians in their own homes. Dr. Barnwell notes that if you've purchased scores for each of your singers, there is nothing else required. However, if you wish to use this piece in worship, please send a one-time fee of \$30 to Barnwells Notes, Inc., 2442 Tunlaw Rd Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20007.
- ["My Life Flows On in Endless Song" \(Vimeo\)](#) (#108 in *Singing the Living Tradition*; Quaker text paired with melody written by American Baptist minister Robert Wadsworth Lowry). Piano and melodica by Michael Frye-Hunt; vocals by Dorothy Frye-Hunt.

But Wait, There's (a bit) More...

Please see individual citation preferences/donation opportunities.

* From [Sharon Scholl](#):

- [Creativity](#)
- [Cry to Creation](#)
- [Beauty](#)
- [Mother/Daughter Duets for Mother's Day](#)

Please visit her linked website above for many more compositions and arrangements! She would love to hear back from you about any music you download and use. Please contact [Amanda Udis-Kessler](#) to reach Sharon. Amanda will pass along your messages and contact information.

Extra, Extra!!! Read All About: [Music to the Ears](#)

"MUSIC to the Ears Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving in-school and out of school youth and young adults in Los Angeles County and surrounding communities. We use music education as a tool to help students discover their capacity for creativity, technological innovation and entrepreneurship. Our programs are designed to prepare students for creative and career pathways in the music, media and entertainment industry. Our mission is to inspire and impact future generations of creative entrepreneurs and content creators, while preparing them for creative, entrepreneurial and professional career pathways in music, media and entertainment. Regardless of age, gender, socio-economic status or geographic location, our blended learning platform allows us to reach a wide and diverse audience through on-site and online instruction."

Stories For All Ages

The Book of Mistakes by Corinna Loyken

The ways in which mistakes can creatively blossom into inspiration.

Book: [HERE](#)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYmYJxISx7U>

The Year We Learned to Fly by Jacqueline Woodson, Rafael López

Grandmother and others help us overcome hardships and imagine a better world.

Book: [HERE](#)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRy3cK0EpOM>

Maybe Something Beautiful by F. Isabel Campoy, Theresa Howell, Rafael López

A muralist brings color, joy, and hope to a neighborhood. It is based on the true story of the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, California.

Book: [HERE](#)

Read Aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hy4qegcpKn8>

Ada's Violin by Susan Hood (Author), Sally Wern Comport (Illustrator)

A true tale of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay, an orchestra made up of children playing instruments built from recycled trash.

Book: [HERE](#)

Video in Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=litsLCufVAo&t=0s>

Video in English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiggneSLQuo>

Your Name is a Song by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow and Luisa Uribe

Treating our name as if it were a song, so everyone can pronounce it and celebrate it.

Book: [HERE](#)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RETE1eKpUpw>

The Sound That Jazz Makes by Carole Boston Weatherford, Eric Velasquez

Explore the ways that music comes from grief and also is a celebration of creativity and freedom. About jazz and how it started in Africa and the experience of slavery, then transformed into something original and unique.

Book: [HERE](#)

Video (no words): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXzg4ZPe8EY>

You might try reading the words in the book and playing this video with the music together.

Be a Maker by Katey Howes

A story that centers a child of color on her journey to learn about the many things we make—and the ways we can make a difference in the world.

Book: [HERE](#)

Read Aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCuCY5eczBw>

Shaped By Her Hands: Potter Maria Martinez by Anna Harber Freeman & Barbara Gonzales

She grew up to discover a new firing technique that turned her pots black and shiny, and made them—and Maria—famous.

Book: [HERE](#)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zDaxzLwlbQ>

We Can: Portraits of Power by Tyler Gordon

14-year-old Tyler Gordon has a creative artistic gift. Check out his world!

Book: [HERE](#)

Video of BEYOND THE SCREEN with 14-year-old painter & activist Tyler Gordon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcadSXIM4qs> (10:34)

Tyler's Website and story: <https://tylorgordonworld.com/about/>

To Make by Danielle Davis (Author), Mags DeRoma (Illustrator)

An ode to the joys of the creative process and the spirit of collaboration.

Book: [HERE](#)

Stop Motion Video inspired by the book: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=124m6_1VoX8

(Note: there is no read aloud of the book available currently.)

My Rainy Day Rocket Ship by Markette Sheppard, Charly Palmer

A stormy afternoon is no match for this dreamer, who uses everyday household items to whip up a trip around the universe.

Book: [HERE](#)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYlaiOmIVAU>

The Big Orange Splot, by Daniel Manus Pinkwater

When Mr. Plumbeans' house is splashed with bright orange paint, he decides a multi-colored house would be a nice change. A favorite story of creativity and expression. Project the various styles of houses.

Book: <https://www.amazon.com/Big-Orange-Splot-Manus-Pinkwater/dp/0590445103>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpkNJTBSPi>

The Starry Night by Neil Waldman

"Neil Waldman's special book, featuring stunning Van Gogh-inspired paintings of Manhattan, speaks to that part of a child that knows no limits—the imagination." - Amazon. An African American boy who meets the mysterious stranger is inspired to create.

Book: https://www.amazon.com/Starry-Night-Neil-Waldman/dp/1590787803/ref=sr_1_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1518630137&sr=1-4&keywords=The+Starry+night

Before John was a Jazz Giant; A Song of John Coltrane, by Carole Boston Weatherford

https://www.amazon.com/Before-John-Was-Jazz-Giant/dp/0805079947/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1518791969&sr=1-1&keywords=before+john+was+a+jazz+giant+a+song+of+john+coltrane

"Young John Coltrane was all ears. And there was a lot to hear growing up in the South in the 1930s: preachers praying, music on the radio, the bustling of the household. These vivid noises shaped John's own sound as a musician. ...Before John Was a Jazz Giant is a 2009 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book and a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year." - Amazon. Reflect on improvisation and play "My Favorite Things" by John Coltrane. The essence of jazz is creativity and improvisation. A jazz theme is suggested for Memorial Day in this packet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWG2dsXV5HI&list=PL23A11132CD8400CD&index=9>

(The entire piece is 13 minutes, so fade out at 2:00)

Sermon Seeds

Angles, Ideas & Twists To Get Your Sermon Started!

Don't forget to explore the small group packet for additional sermon seeds. It contains quotes and poems to enhance your sermon, as well as numerous sermon angles in the questions and the spiritual exercises.

Permissions Notes: In addition to the pieces we've noted as permissioned for online use (marked with an asterisk*), you can use the fair use sized quotes and fair use sized portions of longer pieces in your sermons/services. Pay attention to the hyperlinks we include within titles and authors' names; these hyperlinks provide the source material and direction for you to hunt down permissions on your own.

Readings: We do not designate pieces that can be used as readings before your sermon, however we do make an intentional effort to include a significant number of sermon seeds that are longer and can be used as sermon readings.

On Our Ability to Creatively Shape Our Days

Quote - James Baldwin

The world is before you, and you need not take it or leave it as it was when you came in.

Quote - M.C. Richards

All the arts we practice are apprenticeship. The big art is our life.

Quote - Ralph Waldo Emerson

The two terrors that discourage creativity and creative living are fear of public opinion and undue reverence for one's own consistency.

Quote - Henry David Thoreau

It is something to be able to paint a particular picture, or to carve a sculpture, and so to make a few objects beautiful; but it is far more glorious to paint and carve the very atmosphere and medium through which we look, which morally we can do. To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of the arts.

Quote - John Keats

The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need those who can dream of things that never were.

Quote - William James

The greatest discovery of any generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitude.

TED Talk (But basically a sermon) - The Art of Changing Metaphors, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXC3-ZFkhDo>

On creatively changing the metaphors we live by.

Quote - Carl Jung

It all depends on how we look at things, and not on how they are themselves.

Book - The Art of Is Improvising as a Way of Life, Stephen Nachmanovitch

Review: <https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/view/28826/the-art-of-is?fbclid=IwAR3vcFryCr4gs3YIsuXBnCiBUyol-MWU5pju73uEOC-EhGvwuEjKg7vqKH0>

Reading - The Magic of an Empty Palm, Rev. Theresa I. Soto *

Found in [Spilling the Light](#), UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

Poem - Each New Day, Rev. Peter Friedrichs *

[Permission Secured by Soul Matters](#)

Also found at

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/poetry/each-new-day>

Why is this blank page
staring back at me,
mocking, like an affliction,
and fraught with dread?
How can it hold such sway,
this simple emptiness?
Might it instead be a gift
left on my doorstep overnight,
waiting to be broken open
with the dawn?
A present, eager to emerge
if only I had the sense
to hold the paper
over a candle flame,
its lemon juice message
appearing, like magic,
clear and true?
Each new day is like this,
pure air, devoid of density,
but for the weight of our own
invention.
Birds do not worry the morning
or fret the rising sun.
They wait, expectant,
until its rays kiss their downy necks.
Then, stretching,
they turn to face the day,
And sing.

Meditation - Blessed are the Makers, Rev. Marcus Liefert *

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Oh you who are makers;
Makers of beauty,
Of paintings and pottery and sculpture,
Blessed is the making.
You who make with hands and hearts and minds,
Who make out of breath and bones and blood
human lives,
Blessed are the makers.

Blessed are those who make us laugh,
Who make jokes and faces and toys.

Blessed are those who make messes,
Who make trouble and friends, and when needed,
make up.

Blessed are those who make do,
Who make it last, make it work, make beds and
make time for others.

Blessed are those who make love,
Who make out and make more and make mistakes.

Blessed are those who make coffee and tea,
Who make conversation, who make meaning in the
face of tragedy;
who make merriment and awaken joy.

*Blessed are those who make peace
For they shall inherit the earth.*

On Taking a Creative View of Your Life & Yourself

Quote - Vincent Van Gogh

There is nothing more truly artistic than to love people.

Quote - Vincent Van Gogh

Normality is a paved road: It's comfortable to walk, but no flowers grow on it.

Quote - Zora Neale Hurston

There are years that ask questions and years that answer.

Poem/Reading - Seed of the Soul, Sarah Van Sciver

Full poem at http://soulseedart.com/html/seed_of_the_soul.html

What kind of seed are you?

What will you look like when you

Sprout forth into the world of possibilities?...

Quote - Ray Bradbury

We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled. The trick is, knowing how to tip ourselves over and let the beautiful stuff out.

Reading - The Grout, Rev. Marcus Hartlief *

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reflection/grout>

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"But our mosaic making tells another story too, one that is often more difficult to see... One that lies not in the beautiful and broken bits and pieces but in the grout... Grout happens in board meetings and committee meetings and endless emails and slow-moving institutions. It is in weekly potlucks shared by neighbors, a ride to church, and coffee in the social hall after worship..."

On Creativity's Call to Live Courageously

Quote - Elizabeth Gilbert

A creative life is any life where somebody consistently follows their curiosity more than their fear.

Quote - [Matt Richtel](#)

Creativity is terrifying. Subconsciously, research shows, people associate it with vomit, toxins and other scary ideas. Why? Creativity means change, even death.

Quote - Katharine Butler Hathaway

I invented this rule for myself to be applied to every decision I might have to make in the future. I would sort out all the arguments and see which belonged to fear and which to creativeness, and other things being equal I would make the decision which had the larger number of creative reasons on its side. I think it must be a rule something like this that makes jonquils and crocuses come pushing through cold mud.

Book - Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear, Elizabeth Gilbert

"Big Magic wants to help readers live 'a life that is driven more strongly by curiosity than by fear.' It is broken into six inspiring and thought-provoking sections: Courage, Enchantment, Permission, Persistence, Trust, and Divinity."

Quote - [Elizabeth Gilbert](#)

So this, I believe, is the central question upon which all creative living hinges: Do you have the courage to bring forth the treasures that are hidden within you?

Quote - [Elizabeth Gilbert](#)

Fear is always triggered by creativity, because creativity asks you to enter into realms of uncertain outcome.

Quote - Vincent Van Gogh

Normality is a paved road: It's comfortable to walk, but no flowers grow on it.

Quote - Hermann Hesse

Gaze into the fire, into the clouds, and as soon as the inner voices begin to speak... surrender to them. Don't ask first whether it's permitted, or would please your teachers or father or some god. You will ruin yourself if you do that.

On Viewing Ourselves as Works in Progress

Quote - Anais Nin

Life is a process of becoming, a combination of states we have to go through. Where people fail is that they wish to elect a state and remain in it. This is a kind of death.

Quote - Dan Gilbert

Human beings are works in progress that mistakenly think they are finished.

Talk - Life as a Work in Progress and the History Illusion, Dan Gilbert

<https://www.mybestself101.org/you-are-a-work-in-progress>

Reading - Being a work in progress is diametrically opposed to being perfect, Stephanie Trudel

(From [a sermon entitled Work in Progress](#))

Being a work in progress is diametrically opposed to being perfect. Being perfect is rigid, unyielding. It offers no flexibility, no wiggle room. It puts people in neat little boxes with labels that often times do not fit. Perfect does not allow for diversity of opinion. Perfect doesn't care about the process, only the product. Perfect stifles creativity, and impedes understanding. Perfect is judgmental and closed off. One size does not fit all, especially when it comes to matters of religion and faith. Unitarian Universalism understands this, and offers an alternative...

When you are a work in progress, you are able to breathe, and move. You can explore and stretch yourself in new ways. You are enriched by the symphony of life that surrounds you and fills you. You can question, ponder, and search freely for what is most meaningful for you. You can come to find others who may have a much different story, but who are also seeking, searching. Perhaps that is a place where you find meaning. You know that mistakes are not mistakes, but opportunities to learn what not to do next time. You see the value in the process, secure in the knowledge that it is the journey that matters. When you are a work in progress, you realize how vast this world is, and how much there is to learn. You do your best, and know that is enough.

On Creativity's Power to Heal

Book - All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me, Patrick Bringley

"Do not go into this book expecting stories about funny experiences or hijinks in the museum. Instead this is a very thoughtful memoir of how Patrick Bringley sought solace and a place to "just be" after the death of his older brother and after his own realization that he needed to escape the rat race publishing job he had in NYC."

- [review](#)

Article - What you learn about beauty and grief as a guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

<https://www.vox.com/culture/23597606/patrick-bringley-interview-all-the-beauty-in-the-world-metropolitan-museum-of-art-met-grief>

Quote - Fr. Richard Rohr

If we don't find a way to transform our pain, we will always transmit it to those around us or turn it against ourselves... If your religion is not teaching you how to recognize, hold, and transform suffering, it is junk religion.

Poem - Here's Your Chance, Rev. Dr. David Breeden*

[Permission Secured by Soul Matters](#)

A work of art is a chance
to rework the wounds
of time, of self. A work

of art is a shot at getting
to a true image, a right
symbol, a just world, even.

At the frayed edges, artists
swirl; loving, intricate spirits
searching. Every work is

a shot at getting it right.
Meaning the world, just,
true. At least in the eclectic
swirl of the artist's mind.

On The Dangers of Resisting Our Creativity

Quote - [Mary Oliver](#)

The most regretful people on earth are those who felt the call to creative work, who felt their own creative power restive and uprising, and gave to it neither power nor time.

Quote - The Gospel of Thomas

If you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth will save you. If you do not bring forth what is within you, what you do not bring forth will destroy you.

On Co-Creation & the Myth of the Solitary Creator

Book - Powers of Two: Finding the Essence of Innovation in Creative Pairs, Joshua Wolf Shenk

"As long as we've been interested in creativity, we've been preoccupied by the myth of the lone genius. Shenk busts this fantasy apart and draws on new scientific research to show how the pair is the embodiment of ingenuity. Shenk explains how synergy created the magic of John Lennon and Paul McCartney, the hilarity of Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the civil rights fire of Ralph David Abernathy and Martin Luther King, Jr., and the genius of scores of others in the fields of writing, music, dance, science, technology, social activism, and business. When it comes to creative success, Shenk persuasively argues that two is the magic number and understanding why changes everything we thought we knew about creativity."

Related article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/20/opinion/sunday/the-end-of-genius.html>

Reading - Mending the Broken World, Rev. Kathleen McTigue *

Full piece in [Shine and Shadow](#), UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" book.
(Also found [here](#))

"...on this sunny September afternoon as I watch his eyes and hands become familiar with each stone and then lift it to shape the wall, it's easy to imagine God at work in the immense universe, quietly humming, pulling our lives together into something strong and useful.

I don't mean we're mute or helpless, waiting passively for the great Stonemason to lift and move our lives or tell us where we belong. I mean only that there is a place for us... I mean that the world's possibilities shift and change each time we put ourselves into building something large and strong and beautiful... the world itself calls us to imagine ourselves essential to this engaged holiness, bringing forth what is ours to give of creation and strength, toward mending the broken world."

On What Creativity Does To Us

Quote - Rollo May

The creative process must be explored... as the expression of the normal people in the act of actualizing themselves.

Quote - Matthew Fox

Art as meditation reminds people –so that they will never forget – that the most beautiful thing a potter produces is... the potter.

Quote - [Julia Cameron](#)

We have a mythology that tells us creativity is selfish. We are tutored to believe that artists are self-centered, but I think that as we experience our creativity, we experience a sense of expansion that is in fact the opposite of selfish.

Quote - Rick Rubin, The Creative Act: A Way of Being

The person who makes something today isn't the same person who returns to the work tomorrow.

Sermon - Celebrating the Arts, Rev. Roger Fritts

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yKnI7JYxHqMx8Bb3iw3cLJICMO_v3lNFhVxG0znk0zo/edit?usp=sharing

On Unknowing as the Birthplace of Creativity

Talk - The Neuroscience of Creativity, Perception, and Confirmation Bias, Beau Lotto

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vR2P5vW-nVc>

"We do almost everything to avoid uncertainty. And yet the irony is that that is the only place we can go if we're ever going to see differently. And that's why creativity always begins the same way: it begins with a question. It begins with not knowing. It begins with a "why" It begins with a "What if?""

Quote - Erich Fromm

The capacity to be puzzled is...the premise of all creation, be it in art or in science.

Quote - Claude Monet

To see we must forget the name of the thing we are looking at.

Quote - Henri Matisse

There is nothing more difficult for a truly creative painter than to paint a rose, because before he can do so he has first to forget all the roses that were ever painted.

Quote - Arthur Koestler

Creativity is the defeat of habit by originality.

Reflection - Hope in the Darkness, Richard Rohr

Full piece here: <https://cac.org/changing-our-view-of-god-2017-09-06/>

Excerpt: "Through darkness and doubt often come the greatest creativity and faith. Our faith is strengthened every time we go through a period of questioning: "Why do I believe this? Do I believe this at all? What do I base my life on?" When we are at rock bottom, everything becomes clearer: self-image, God-image, worldview. It takes a long time to purify the experience of dysfunctional family life, abuse, manipulation, shaming, negativity, or judgmental attitudes. As St. John of the Cross (1542-1591) described, our gods must each die till we find the true God. Or as Meister Eckhart (c. 1260-1327) put it, "Let us pray to God that we may be free of God." ... The way through is always much more difficult than the way around. Cheap religion gives us the way around, avoiding darkness. True religion gives us the way through, stepping right into the mystery."

On What Creativity Has to Teach Us About Surrender

Quote - [Julia Cameron](#)

The creative process is a process of surrender, not control.

Quote - [Julia Cameron](#)

In dance, in composition, in sculpture, the experience is the same: we are more the conduit than the creator of what we express.

Quote - Carl Jung

Creative power is mightier than its possessor.

Quote - Charlotte Bronte

The writer who possesses the creative gift owns something of which he is not always master- something that at time strangely wills and works for itself.

Quote - Martin Buber

Creation happens to us, burns into us, changes us, we tremble and swoon, we submit. Creation – we participate in it, we encounter the creator, offer ourselves to him, helpers and companions.

Quote - Hermann Hesse

Gaze into the fire, into the clouds, and as soon as the inner voices begin to speak... surrender to them. Don't ask first whether it's permitted, or would please your teachers or father or some god. You will ruin yourself if you do that.

On What Creativity Has to Teach Us About Self-Doubt

Quote - Vincent van Gogh

If you hear a voice within you say, 'You cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.

On Creativity & the Divine

Quote/Reading - [Lucia Capacchione](#)

When you create you lose yourself in your creation. Time seems to stand still and all else is forgotten. You participate in the divine play that is creativity. These moments offer a glimpse of who you really are: a being fashioned in the image and likeness of God. Like the source of all creation, you are a creator, too. It is your divine birthright. The person who says "I'm not creative" is uttering blasphemy. The truth is that you are the Creative Self expressing through the human vessel of your body, emotions, mind, and soul. Creativity flows through you as a universal life force, called by many names throughout the ages: chi, prana, shakti, the Holy Spirit... Losing yourself in this divine embrace of the creative process, you disappear. Your ego or limited sense of separateness vanishes, and you emerge into the vast ocean that is creativity. This is an altered state of intuitive awareness in which you renounce control from your head alone. Instead, you allow the Creative Self to flow through your heart, your body, and your intuition. Then you are taken to places you can never go in your ordinary waking state. This road leads eventually to moments of divine bliss described by ecstatic poets like Rumi, Kabir, and Lalli.

Book - In the Beginning...Creativity

Gordon Kaufman

<http://fortresspress.com/product/beginning-creativity>

"This volume not only develops further than ever before Kaufman's idea of God as creativity but also shows what it would mean to think of God in this way, to live with faith in this God, and to cooperate with the divine in meeting our most pressing challenges."

Book - The Source of Human Good

Henry Nelson Wieman (converted to Unitarian Universalism in later life)

[https://www.amazon.com/Source-Human-Henry-Nelson-](https://www.amazon.com/Source-Human-Henry-Nelson-Wieman/dp/1258278251/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1518810604&sr=8-1&keywords=henry+nelson+wieman)

[Wieman/dp/1258278251/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1518810604&sr=8-1&keywords=henry+nelson+wieman](https://www.amazon.com/Source-Human-Henry-Nelson-Wieman/dp/1258278251/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1518810604&sr=8-1&keywords=henry+nelson+wieman)

Writing in 1940's, what we need in our scientific age, says Wieman, is "a faith that can direct our commitment to the creative source of all human good as it works in the temporal world, open to rational-empirical search and to service by modern technology." As a theistic naturalist, Wieman identifies the creative source of human good (God) as *an empirically observable process within the natural world of events and relations*. God is that actual creative reality in the universe which "creates the good of the world in a way that man cannot do." God is the *source* of human good, not the *imaginative projection* of human good. For him, the word "God" refers

specifically to those processes within the world that are creative of good, human and otherwise. God is a *part* of nature, the part that brings forth the increase in good. Wieman blurred the White-headian distinction between God and creativity. He claimed that God *is* the creative process, the creative event, that tendency in the world wherein “the several parts of life are connected in mutual support, vivifying and enhancing one another in the creation of a more inclusive unity of events and possibilities. In short, God is creative transformation, the growth of meaning and value in the world. He is *not* claiming that there is this being out there named “God” who brings about creative transformation (this is the view of Whitehead and most process theologians). Rather, he is claiming that there is creative transformation in the world, and this natural process is what has traditionally been symbolized as “God.”

Book - Creativity: Where the Divine and Human Meet, Matthew Fox

“The author of Original Blessing explores how the highest communion with the Divine can be found right at our fingertips in the simplest expressions of human creativity.”

Related sermon by Fox: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7LLBfZ4yYA>

Quote - [Elizabeth Gilbert](#)

The universe buries strange jewels deep within us all, and then stands back to see if we can find them. The hunt to discover those jewels—that's creative living.

Quote - [Elizabeth Gilbert](#)

What you produce is not necessarily always sacred, I realized, just because you think it's sacred. What is sacred is the time that you spend working on the project, and what that time does to expand your imagination, and what that expanded imagination does to transform your life.

Quote - [Joel Miller](#)

I am reminded of Paul's words in his letter to the Church in Ephesus. The beginning of Chapter 2, verse 10 is translated in many different ways: “for we are what God has made us...”; “for we are God's workmanship”; “we are God's masterpiece”, “God's handiwork”, “God's design”, “God's mastercraft.” The Greek word that is used there is *poiema*, which is where we also get the word poem. We are God's poem.

Quote - [Joel Miller](#)

A lot of theological ink has been spilled throughout the years arguing about how to best understand this idea we call God. One of the longest running debates involves trying to figure out how to hold together the idea of a God who is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-good in the face of a world where evil exists. Those can be interesting mind-games to play, but I find they leave me exhausted. I don't know if this solves any of the issues raised by those arguments, but...what might it mean to, instead, worship a God who is all-beautiful. It's said that the name YHWH is meant to be the sound of breathing. Perhaps an all-beautiful God is one who both takes our breath away by inviting us into a story that is bigger than us and gives us the breath of inspiration to express our own stories anew.

Quote - [Rick Rubin](#)

Think of the universe as an eternal creative unfolding.

Trees blossom. Cells replicate. Rivers forge new tributaries.

The world pulses with productive energy, and everything that exists on this planet is driven by that energy.

Every manifestation of this unfolding is doing its own work on behalf of the universe, each in its own way, true to its own creative impulse.

Quote - [Julia Cameron](#)

We are ourselves creations. We are meant to continue creativity by being creative ourselves. This is the God-force extending itself through us. Creativity is God's gift to us. Using creativity is our gift back to God.

Quote - [Nikolai Berdyaev](#)

It is imperative to bear in mind that human creativity is not a claim or a right on the part of man, but God's claim on and call to man. God awaits man's creative act, which is the response to the creative act of God.

Quote - [Julia Cameron](#)

The heart of creativity is an experience of the mystical union; the heart of the mystical union is an experience of creativity. Those who speak in spiritual terms routinely refer to God as the creator but seldom see creator as the literal term for artist. I am suggesting you take the term creator quite literally. You are seeking to forge a creative alliance, artist-to-artist with the Great Creator.

Closing Words - A Power at Work in the Universe, Rev. Tom Schade *

Full piece found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/benediction/power-at-work>

There is a power at work in the universe...

It is a creative, sustaining, and transforming power...

It will sustain us whenever we take a stand on the side of love...

Miscellaneous

Reading - From Broken Parts, Whole

Rev. Karen G. Johnston

Found at <https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/broken-parts-whole>

On the many lessons from taking a mosaic class.

Reading - Life Tips from a Pottery Wheel

Tim Atkins

Found at <https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/life-tips-pottery-wheel>

On the many lessons from wheel-thrown pottery.

On Motherhood & Creativity

Essay - The Things I Miss Most from My Life Before Kids, Courtney Martin

<https://onbeing.org/blog/courtney-martin-the-things-i-miss-most-from-my-life-before-kids/>

"My body boundaries...

Timelessness...

Following the muse...

Wandering...

Being fearless about dying...

Being one person..."

Reflection - How Motherhood Affects Creativity, Erika Hayasaki

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/09/how-motherhood-affects-creativity/539418/>

Cultural messages tell women that making art and having children are incompatible pursuits. But science suggests that women may become more creative after having kids.

Reflection - Endearments, Lilia Cuervo *

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reflection/endearaments>

"From the time I was a baby, my mother often displayed her love for me by reciting a list of endearments such as: mi chiquitica linda, mi preciosa, mi criaturita hermosa, mi alegría, la hija más amada en el mundo, el tesoro de mi corazón. Loosely translated, her litany would go like this: my cute little thing, my precious, my beautiful child, my joy, the most loved little daughter in the world, my heart's treasure.... The overture to her list was the sound of endearment tsh, tsh, tsh, accompanied by a smile, and the grand finale included a most tender look, accompanied by the question, Who loves you so much? I came to expect her tender litany when I grew up, even when I became a mother myself and visited her with my children..."

Quote - Madeleine L'Engle, Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Arts

The artist is a servant who is willing to be a birthgiver. In a very real sense, the artist (of all genders) should be like Mary who, when the angel told her that she was to bear the Messiah, was obedient to the command.... I believe that each work of art, whether it is a work of great genius, or something very small, comes to the artist and says, "Here I am. Enflesh me. Give birth to me."

Quote - John O'Donohue

The heart of human identity is the capacity and desire for birthing. To be is to become creative and bring forth the beautiful.

Recommended Sermons

Notes about 2022-23 sermon recommendations:

- **We mostly list written scripts:** In order not to undermine UU preachers who depend on live and online guest preaching income for their livelihood, we mainly focus on sharing sermon texts (and sometimes audio clips), but not videos. When, on occasion, we include a video sermon, it will be from congregations that share those as part of their mission.
- **Permissions Secured:** All of the sermons below have received permission for your online use. Unless otherwise noted, they can be used for both live streaming and recorded services that are posted on YouTube or a podcast. **However, to be extra cautious and in good relationship, we ask that you reach out to the minister to let them know you are planning to use their sermon, also asking if they have any particular requests or guidance for how to do that.**
- **An Important Note About Editing:** If you want to make changes to the sermon for brevity or context, **you need to reach out to the preachers directly for such editing permission.** Contact information of each of the referenced preachers is listed after the list of sermons.
- **Note about hiring preachers for online guest preaching:** All of the texts listed below can be used and read in your worship services for free. And, in some cases, the preachers of these sermons are glad to be hired to guest preach and give these sermons at your congregation either by zooming into your service or sending you a recording of them giving it. When this is the case, there is a note under the sermon title/link with the preacher's contact information.

Courage and Creativity

Rev Kate Dean

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q_C6Wm6v84NT_Yn7gpRH1XjCP0QBSrps/view?usp=sharing

"Creativity is about magicking something into existence that was not there before. We can all, as poet Daniel Ladinsky says, be spinners of skies and weavers of love. But it takes courage to be creative – especially if you have been wounded by childhood comments..."

***Special note:** This sermon was published in the UK newspaper, *The Inquirer*, which was founded in 1842 as a "Unitarian and nonconformist paper." Learn more [here](#).*

Nurturing Creativity

Rev. Jonalu Johnstone

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19zBUcJaMFzosmnELoTBf36sJIUfhgPzR/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101245613595157190644&rtpof=true&sd=true>

"Because our religious tradition is grounded in innovation, we could say we are a people of creativity... However, we can't simply cling to that definition unless we understand more deeply what it demands of us..."

Creativity

Rev. Julie Stoneberg

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eOJLLqP4BADEcfJMBR8CBfZNOAqGYCoB/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101245613595157190644&rtpof=true&sd=true>

"I want to affirm the artist in each of us and the incredible art that we are creating and re-creating each day. I want to affirm that your contribution is valuable and exists beyond the reach of any who would call themselves jurors. I want to assure you that my world is less without the presence of you; and my ability to create an artful life is made possible by your creative contributions..."

The Creative Spirit

Rev. Janet Parsons

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZiLX-IgOdtl82Z470CudX7hVGB7W2aD1/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101245613595157190644&rtpof=true&sd=true>

“What can separate us from a life of creativity isn’t a lack of talent; whether we see ourselves, or others see us, as talented. No. What can separate us from a life of creativity is our response to the invitation, to the call. Do we say ‘yes’ when we feel something inspiring us? Do we even notice? Do we walk through the door that opens, or do we say ‘no’, or ‘I can’t’?...”

Fireflies and Genius

Rev Kaaren Anderson

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B7XwQQ75GfcwalfN3X_R81erl8d09zBm3h0dS87zeQA/edit?usp=sharing

“One of the primary reasons we get tripped up when it comes to creativity has to do with fear and judgment. We may have had an elementary school teacher that told us dogs do not look like pigs, and penguins are not fire hydrants with wings, a high school English teacher who told us our writing metaphors were stale and well worn, or a camp director who said we couldn’t act our way out of our lamest lie... Well to that I say: hogwash!...”

Creation Out of Nothing?

Rev. Joshua Mason Pawelek

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DY19si7ccFcj2hvx8F2dMV9Ot_LK7Q7p/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101245613595157190644&rtpof=true&sd=true

“In the end, the stories we tell of creation (as distinct from our scientific and theological analyses) are not meant to be factual. That’s why we call them myths and poems. They are meant to tell us something about ourselves and the universe we inhabit. But even if we’ve never heard them, our bodies seem to know: however it all began, a creative drive lives at the heart of the universe and lives in each of us; and it is, like spring, heady, impetuous, adolescent, lusty, exhilarating, earthy, feverish, sexy...”

Featured Preacher Bios & Contact Information

- **Rev. Kate Dean:** <https://www.rosslynhillchapel.org.uk/contact-us>
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Closing Words

Let Us Sing the Magic of Imagination, Rev. Susan Van Dresser *

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/6020.shtml>

[Permission Source](#)

Let us sing the magic of imagination...

Let us sing the magic of creation by which we build the world of our soul and teach its wisdom to others...

Go now with singing. Go now with magic in your fingertips. Touch this world with life.

The Blessing of Creativity, Rev. Barbara Wells

Full piece found at https://firstuchicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/First_Unitarian_Chicago_May_Newsletter_2018.01.pdf (pg. 4)

May your senses awake to the creative spark that lives in you.

May you walk in beauty and seek to create beauty wherever you go...

Prayer for Artists and Creatives, Atena O. Danner *

Found in [Incantations for Rest](#), UUA worship resource & Soul Matters “[Common Shelf](#)” Book

An ending, or merely prelude to more glorious beginnings?, Rev. Michael A Schuler *

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/5407.shtml>

[Permission Source](#)

...Is this ending to be an ending,

Or merely prelude to new, more glorious beginnings?

I pose the question; In your hearts lies the answer.

Rejoice in your Creativity, Dianne M. Daniels *

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Tap into your imagination and set your mind free – creativity helps you to treat your life like a work of art.

Whatever activity you turn your hand to, treat it like a part of the masterpiece that is your life.

Take time out to have fun, laugh and smile, sing and dance, and make space for creativity when you lighten up.

Dream big and take risks – expressing your creativity requires courage – the same emotion required to stretch beyond your comfort zones, to try new and different things, and to learn from your past experiences.

Turn routine tasks into a game that challenges you to find easier and faster ways to complete your to-do list.

Express yourself through your work and hobbies, and take satisfaction in your honest efforts.

Experiment with new approaches to problem-solving and your relationships, and nurture your ability to imagine and manifest new solutions.

Today, nourish your ability to innovate, and make creativity your way of life.

The Call and Blessing of Creativity, Rev. Scott Tayler *

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May the call of creativity arise again from within..

May your own creative unfolding leave you in awe.

May the beauty that has blessed you

lead you to create beauty

for those you love and those you do not know.

May the creativity that arises between us help to birth the world anew.

Flower Communion Closing Words, Rev. Jonalu Johnstone*

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May the flower you have chosen remind you of the blessings you receive from those gathered here.

May it remind you of the beauty of the earth, of the natural world and all the gifts that our human, animal, and plant companions share with us.

May it remind you of the artwork we created here together and the art we create here together week after week, the art of creating community.

Go in peace.

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Join the Soul Matters Ministers' Support Facebook Page:

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Attend one of our two monthly online ministers' brainstorming groups:

First Tuesdays and First Thursdays of each month at 1pm eastern
with this zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5857099120>

Attend our monthly online musicians' brainstorming group:

First Tuesdays of each month from 6-7pm eastern
with this zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5857099120>

Inspiration

Our Facebook Inspiration Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

Our Instagram Page:

Find us as "soul_matters_circle"

Music Playlists:

Click [here](#) for links to the [Spotify playlists](#) for each month.

Click [here](#) to check out the [YouTube playlists](#).



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