SKAGIT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

ORDER OF SERVICE

December 5, 2021

Speaker: Jonathan Prescott

Celebrant: Sally Riggers

**Prelude** Christmas with the London Symphony. Recorded 11/20/21<https://youtu.be/3BkR3k_yFCE>

**Greeting**

**Chalice Lighting**

To face the world's darkness -

 a chalice of light.

To face the world's coldness -

 a chalice of warmth.

To face the world's terrors -

 a chalice of courage.

To face the world's turmoil -

 a chalice of peace.

May its glow fill our spirits, our hearts and our lives.

 From the UU Felowship of Harrison, Virginia

**Opening Words**

*When children come home*

*At the end of the day,*

*There's a question they're asked*

*As they scurry to play.*

*“Tell me, what did you do in school today?”*

*“Nothing. I did nothing today!”*

*Perhaps nothing means that I played with blocks.*

*Tied my own shoes, or found beautiful rocks.*

*Maybe the monarchs hatched today,*

*Or maybe I found a new friend to play.*

*Maybe today was the very first time*

*My scissors followed a very straight line,*

*Perhaps I learned a new song,*

*and sang all the words.*

*Or I touched a feather from the strangest of birds.*

*When you're in preschool and your heart has wings*

*“Nothing:” can mean some wonderful things!*

**Music** “*Simple Things*” sung by Emily Anderson <https://youtu.be/oImyrGfTDE0>

**Lyrics**

Well I suppose you expect me
To sing about my feelings
About an old friend or long lost lover
Or how I'm scared of getting older
Yes, I'm scared of getting older

But I'd rather sing of simple things
That have nothing to do with me
Like a bird in the sky, or the moon on a hill
Or the way the dust settles on your windowsill
But these simple things are not simple things at all

And I could tell stories
All about people I made in my mind
I could sing poetry and fables
And you'd listen to all of my lies
All of my lies

But I'd rather sing of simple things
That have nothing to do with me
Like a bird in the sky, or the moon on a hill
Or the way the dust settles on your windowsill
But these simple things are not simple things at all

How do I sing of love when I don't understand the lines on my hands?
How do I know my soul when I can't understand
Why I'm here, who I am
Or the bird in the sky, or the moon on a hill, or the way the dust settles on your windowsill
No I don't understand
But someday
Maybe I will

**Congregational News, Announcements, Offering and**

**Welcome to Visitors**

**Sharing of Joys and Sorrows**

**Music** *“Simple Gifts”*https://youtu.be/baNueuDCue0

Yo-Yo Ma and Alison Krauss.

**Introduction of Speaker**

Jonathan Prescott is a long-time ordained student of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. After serving as Chaplain and Cancer Care Navigator for Island Hospital and as Spiritual Counselor for Hospice of the Northwest, Jonathan founded [Wise Caregiving](http://wisecaregiving.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=56cdaab9f0de33d8aa9840044&id=ad30a4fc3a&e=9a2e2c1ca8), a non-profit dedicated to helping people become more open-hearted, sustainable, and effective caregivers. He writes and speaks frequently about finding the happiness that is always nearby.

**Sermon:** Laziness. It’s easy to see how sitting on the couch all day can be called ‘laziness.’ But can laziness also be our chronic tendency to do too much?

**Music** *“Oh Love”* by Elaine Hagenberg <https://youtu.be/U2cqblTDR8w>

**Closing Words**

*“Laziness”* – by Robert William Service

Let laureates sing with rapturous swing
Of the wonder and glory of work;
Let pulpiteers preach and with passion impeach
The indolent wretches who shirk.
No doubt they are right: in the stress of the fight
It's the slackers who go to the wall;
So though it's my shame I perversely proclaim
It's fine to do nothing at all.

It's fine to recline on the flat of one's spine,With never a thought in one's head:It's lovely to lie staring up at the skyWhen others are earning their bread.It's great to feel one with the soil and the sun,Drowned deep in the grasses so tall;Oh it's noble to sweat, pounds and dollars to get,
But - it's grand to do nothing at all.

**So sing to the praise of the fellows who laze
Instead of lambasting the soil;
The vagabonds gay who lounge by the way,
Conscientious objectors to toil.
But lest you should think, by this spatter of ink,
The Muses still hold me in thrall,
I'll round out my rhyme, and (until the next time)
Work like hell - doing nothing at all.**

**Exinguishing the Chalice**

**Many of us believe that happiness is possible**

**when we have a lot of money, power or success.**

**But happiness is possible in the here and now**

**That is why it is important to bring our mind back to the present**

**and to recognize all the conditions of happiness that are already there. - Thich Nhat Hanh**

**'Closing Circle Song'** https://youtu.be/k7a0Lei2OCA

Conversation with speaker to follow the service