



*Multifaith Voices for
Peace and Justice*

Peaceful Presence
Saturday, April 11, 2020



Peaceful Presence

Care for the Soul During Troubled Times

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IMAGE	SPOKEN WORD	SPEAKER
	Music: JS Bach cello suite	Yo Yo Ma, cello (1998)
	Introduction and welcome	Eric Sabelman
	Opening prayer and Anne Hillman: "Energies of Love"	
Australian Aboriginal Dreamtime	'Dadirri' or "deep listening"	Kristi Iverson
Eden	Genesis ch 1: 20-25	Amy Eilberg
The Burning Bush	Exodus ch 3: 2-5	Amy Eilberg
The Bismillah calligraphy	Shahid Khan: "Pointless talk" (contemporary)	
Russian icon, 12 th century	Origen: "Commentary on Matthew" (ca 185-232 AD)	
"God inviting Christ", by Pieter de Grebber, 1645	Charitie Bancroft "Before the throne of God above" 1863.	
1820 Vision of Joseph Smith (1805-1844)- window made in 1913	"You are good." Gordon B. Hinckley, 1910-2008, 15th President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	
Altarpiece, St Sabina Church, Chicago, by Fr. Fernando Arizti, SJ	Lawrence Ferlinghetti (1919-): from "How to Paint Sunlight" (ca 1997)	Kristi Iverson
"The Cross and the World", by Thomas Cole, 1839	"The Meditations of Dionysius", ca. 500 AD	
Milky Way over Mt Lassen	Wendell Berry (1934-) "The peace of wild things"	Dick Duda
Milky Way over Earth	Music: Domenico Zipoli: "Elevazione"	Gordon Hunt, oboe
Pleiades over city		
Pleiades close-up		
Andromeda galaxy		
Star birth galaxy NGC 3982		
Whole Earth		
San Francisco Bay from space		
Grassy hills and oaks		
	Closing Benediction: Tommy Holland "Under the shelter of each other..." (contemporary)	MaryAnn Sabelman







بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ





























TEXTS

This is the work. When all around us people are polarized by fear and anger, we need not lend energy to the battle. We can stand in the fires of social confusion and choose a more radical way: *to take no enemies*. A mind set *against* something is not conscious in the best sense of the word. It is operating at a more primitive level. Real consciousness requires us to live with an open heart—made fierce by anger and softened by the grief we feel for our own shortcomings and those of the world.

We belong to life, and we can trust that life knows how to engage us creatively. Our work is to be present, to listen, and to step forward when it taps the potential deep within us. Then, whatever social, global, or environmental changes lie ahead, we will be participants in life's creative unfolding and the gradual awakening of Love.

From *Awakening the Energies of Love: Discovering Fire for the Second Time*
Anne Hillman, "Fall Letter 2010" www.annehillman.net

<http://www.sharedwisdom.com/article/australian-aboriginal-wisdom>

Among some of the Australian Aboriginal peoples, this state of being is known as 'dadirri,' a term that literally translates into English as 'deep listening.'

In Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann's words: "We are like the tree standing in the middle of a bushfire sweeping through the timber. The leaves are scorched and the tough bark is scarred and burnt, but inside the tree, the sap is still flowing and under the ground, the roots are still strong. Like the tree, we have endured the flames and yet we still have the power to be reborn."

Allah' the Most High, has said: "Successful are the believers, who are humble in their prayers, and who turn away from pointless talk," (Qur'an, 23:1-3) and: "Those who do not bear witness to what is false, but when they pass by pointless talk, pass by with dignity." (Qur'an, 25:72) and: "When they hear pointless talk, they turn away from it." (Qur'an, 28:55)

Dhu'l-Nun said, "Whoever loves Allah, lives truly, and whoever is inclined to anything else damages his mind. A foolish man comes and goes, paying attention to what is nothing, while the intelligent man thinks over his own thoughts scrupulously."

-Shahid Khan (transmitted by Samina Sundas, January 22, 2010)

http://conservation.catholic.org/Catholic_leaders.htm

Catholic Leaders, Writers, and Theologians (Laypersons and Religious) on ecology and environmental justice

Presented by the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Conservation Center

"Hear ye deaf, and ye blind look up that ye may see." Now the blind see, when they see the world and from the exceeding great beauty of the things created they contemplate the Creator corresponding in greatness and beauty to them; and when they see clearly "the invisible things of God Himself from the creation of the world, which are perceived through the things that are made;" that is, they see and understand with care and clearness.

-Origen (185-232) COMMENTARY ON MATTHEW

<http://aletheuo.org.uk/2009/10/16/before-the-throne-of-god-above/>

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great high Priest whose Name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart.
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart, ...
~Charitie L. Bancroft, 1863.

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/mormon>
Mormon Quotes

“You are good. But it is not enough just to be good. You must be good for something. You must contribute good to the world. The world must be a better place for your presence. And the good that is in you must be spread to others... In this world so filled with problems, so constantly threatened by dark and evil challenges, you can and must rise above mediocrity, above indifference. You can become involved and speak with a strong voice for that which is right.”

— Gordon B. Hinckley 15th President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Lawrence Ferlinghetti's poem How to Paint Sunlight

Instructions to Painters & Poets

I asked a hundred painters and a hundred poets
how to paint sunlight
on the face of life
Their answers were ambiguous and ingenuous
as if they were all guarding trade secrets
Whereas it seems to me
all you have to do
is conceive of the whole world
and all humanity
as a kind of art work
a site-specific art work
an art project of the god of light
the whole earth and all that's in it
to be painted with light

The Macmillan book of earliest Christian meditations/edited by F. Forrester Church and Terrence J. Mulry.

[God] possesses all the positive attributes of the universe (being the universal Cause), yet in a stricter sense it does not possess them, since it transcends them all,. ... Through these things his incomprehensible presence is shown walking upon those heights of his holy places which are perceived by the mind; and then it breaks forth, even from the things that are beheld and from those that behold them, and plunges the true initiate unto the Darkness of Unknowing wherein he renounces all the apprehensions of his understanding and is enwrapped in that which is wholly intangible and invisible, belonging wholly to him that is beyond all things and to none else (whether himself or another), and being through the passive stillness of all his reasoning powers united by his highest faculty to him that is wholly Unknowable, of whom thus by a rejection of all knowledge he possesses a knowledge that exceeds his understanding.

“The Meditations of Dionysius” attributed to Dionysius the Areopagite, but actually written about the turn of the sixth century by a Syrian churchman, who was a neo-Platonic theologian and mystic.

<https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poem/peace-wild-things-0/>

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

-Wendell Berry

from *New Collected Poems* (Counterpoint, 2012)

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/watch-belfast-covid-19-response-team-urges-public-to-see-empty-streets-as-love-in-action-39078067.html>

Under the shelter of each other, people survive.

by West Belfast community worker Tommy Holland:

"When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty football fields, the empty [cricket] pitches, even the empty children's play parks, don't say to yourself, 'It looks like the end of the world'

"What you are seeing is love in action. What you are seeing in those empty spaces is how much we do care for each other.

"We care for our grandparents, our parents, our brothers and sisters, for all those with underlying health problems. We care for people we will never meet.

"People will lose jobs over this. People will lose businesses and some will also lose their lives.

"This is all the more reason to just take a moment when you're out on your walk ... or just watching the news to look into the emptiness and marvel at all of that love. Let it fill you and let it sustain you.

"It isn't the end of the world - it is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness in our lifetime.

"So stay safe folks, stay at home and may God bless you all."

Image sources

<http://aussie-local.blogspot.com/p/cultural-issues.html>

http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-m_JsVY1CqPI/TWcewftYtMI/AAAAAAAAAAo/hgJnWUfGwEo/s1600/aboriginal-01.jpg

http://www.janesoceania.com/australia_aboriginal_art_culture_landscape/index1.htm

http://www.janesoceania.com/australia_aboriginal_art_culture_landscape/aboriginal_art2.jpg

http://conservation.catholic.org/Catholic_leaders.htm

<http://conservation.catholic.org/God-creating-creatures-by-R.jpg>

[caption: Clark, W.K. Lowther]

Burning bush sculpture – source no longer available

https://society6.com/product/arabic-calligraphy-bismillah-hir-rahman-nir-raheem_print

http://www.ocf.org/OrthodoxPage/icons/theotokos_in.html

http://www.ocf.org/OrthodoxPage/icons/data/theotokos_athos.gif

Mother of God icon "Vladimirskaia". 12th century icon, Uspensky Cathedral, Moscow Kremlin. (600 x 887), 384 kb.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:GodInvitingChristDetail.jpg>

Pieter de Grebber God Inviting Christ to Sit on the Throne at His Right Hand (detail) 1645 Oil on canvas, 115 x 133 cm

Museum Catharijneconvent, Utrecht

Source: <http://www.wga.hu/art/g/grebber/inviting.jpg>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Joseph_Smith_first_vision_stained_glass.jpg

Taken from: the PBS web site. This stained glass window was completed in 1913 by an unknown artist, and is presently displayed at the Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Image sources

<https://saintsabina.org/worship/live-broadcast/live-stream-m/11-about-st-sabina/13-mural-at-st-sabina-by-fr-fernando-arizti-sj.html>

https://saintsabina.org/images/church/stsabinamural_js_fernandoarizti_500.jpg

Mural at St. Sabina by Fr. Fernando Arizti, SJ

The two large hands represent the hands of God the Father who offers us the gift of His son. The Father's hands are cupped because a giver offers a gift, but the gift must be received or it remains in the giver's hands. Jesus' left hand is completely open, symbolizing His total self giving of His life for our salvation. His right hand is calling us to come follow Him.

<http://www.blackchristiannews.com/news/2012/01/dr-ed-young-on-four-ways-god-really-answers-prayer.html> [DEAD LINK]

[800px-cole_thomas_the_cross_and_the_world_study_for_the_pilgrim_of_the_cross_at_the_end_of_his_journey_1846-48.jpg](https://thomascole.org/biography-of-thomas-cole/800px-cole_thomas_the_cross_and_the_world_study_for_the_pilgrim_of_the_cross_at_the_end_of_his_journey_1846-48.jpg)

The Cross and the World Study for The Pilgrim of the Cross at the End of His Journey 1846-1847 001

Painted by: Thomas Cole, part of a set of 4 titled "Voyage of Life"

<https://thomascole.org/biography-of-thomas-cole/>

http://images.nationalgeographic.com/wpf/media-live/photos/000/313/cache/dark-galaxies-galaxy-x-may-exist_31305_600x450.jpg

A hidden galaxy may be just beyond the Milky Way, part of which is shown over California's Mount Lassen.

Photograph by Wally Pacholka, TWAN

Richard A. Lovett in Seattle, Washington for National Geographic News Published January 14, 2011

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

https://scontent-sjc3-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t31.0-8/22254828_1775834649110499_4300372961348660866_o.jpg

<https://www.farmersalmanac.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/pleiades.jpg>

<https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap130918.html>

M45: The Pleiades Star Cluster Credit & Copyright: [Roberto Colombari](#)

https://www.universetoday.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/Andromeda_Galaxy_Hubble.jpg

Image sources

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hubble/science/pinwheel.html

Pinwheel of Star Birth 10.19.10

Hubble image of NGC 3982

<https://medium.com/@ksevt/blue-marble-the-image-that-transformed-us-into-terranauts-dafeac03751c>

On December 7th, 1972, conditions were appropriate for the Apollo 17 crew (Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans and Jack Schmitt) to take what is probably the most profound, influential and referenced photograph in the history of humankind. ...

Author: Blaž Mazi Originally written for KSEVT Space Sight.

<http://spaceref.com/earth/earth-from-space-san-francisco-bay-area-usa.html>

Earth From Space: San Francisco Bay Area, USA

Source: European Space Agency Posted June 19, 2015 9:30 AM

dry hills+oaks-504947610_ffed806e42_o.jpg

<http://danmitchell.net/category/san-francisco-bay-area/>

Oaks, Coastal Fog. Almaden Hills, California. May 19, 2007. © Copyright G Dan Mitchell.

Music

<https://music.apple.com/us/album/elevazione-the-magic-of-the-oboe/331850028>

Elevazione for Solo Oboe, Solo Cello, Strings and Organ (arr. V. Hunt)

Gordon Hunt & Norrköping Symphony Orchestra

The Cello Suites - Inspired By Bach

Yo-Yo Ma 1998