



Sunday, July 5 2020 10:30 online worship
The Beauty of a World Without a “Why”



Bequiled
BY BEAUTY

Cultivating a Life of Contemplation & Compassion

GUESTS, Welcome to worship. To learn more about us, please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs

If you would like us to follow up with you contact Pastor Kris at 610-767-6961, pastorkris@unionucc.org

Our next new member information session will be held on September 13 and 20 You will be welcomed as members in worship on Sunday, September 27. If you are interested in attending classes for new members let us know and we'd be glad to send you more information. Please contact Pastor Kris with any questions.

We believe in extravagant welcome. We believe in God's inclusive love. We start worship with a greeting that reflects that welcome and love.

***Leader: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and on faith's journey
ALL: you are welcome here.***

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PRELUDE

America the Beautiful
Samuel A. Ward

Katharine Lee Bates &

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

L No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey
and faith's journey

C You are welcome here.

WE GATHER

THRESHOLD MOMENT

PRAYER

Divine Goodness, Holy One,
Pause us for this moment,
bear us up in this time,
hold us for eternity.

We open to your warming presence.

We remember we came from you.

We affirm all beings are your beloveds.

And all the people say, "**Amen.**"

Hymn

BLACK HYMNAL #591 This Is My Song

**Instrumentalist: Abby Hill, Andy Hill, Alex Hill, Mitchell
Roth, Dylan Kuntz; Saxophone: Garet Hill; Flute: Leah
Horvath, Naomi Henninger; Cello: Gabe Horvath
Director: Mitchell Roth**

**1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is,
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating,
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

WE PROCLAIM

SEARCHING FOR BEAUTY: A TIME FOR CHILDREN WITH MRS. BONSELL

LECTIO DEVINA

① The Song of Songs is biblical poetry at its most lush. In this book, adoration for another is full of metaphors from nature—the voice is like the coo of a dove, the curve of the landscape is seen as the curve of the Body. Perhaps the hills and mountains *are* the curve of the Beloved Creator and our bodies are to be seen as the beautiful handiwork of the same Artisan of Life. In this passage for today, the culminating conclusion is that there is no flaw in the utter beauty of the subject of adoration. This does not mean that perfection is the goal, but that there is no flaw in imperfection. And the beauty of the one beheld is not dependent on the judgment of the beholder. Let us enter this Lectio Divina allowing judgment to suspend, to lift, to dissipate so that we might adore all things, even ourselves, as the “Dearest” to whom this letter is addressed.

Song of Songs 4: 1-7 (Inclusive Bible)

*[Look at you—so beautiful, my dearest!
Look at you—so beautiful!] (a)*

*Look at your eyes, sweet as doves
behind the veil that your hair makes,
as it cascades from your head
like a flock of young goats—
black ones, bounding down off Mount Gilead.*

*And your teeth are sheep:
white as the day they were born,
or newly shorn, and freshly washed,*

*each with its perfect mate.
Not one of them is alone—
why should we be?
And, ah, the lips of that lovely mouth—
a ribbon of scarlet.
Your temples, behind that veil,
glow like the halves
of a freshly sliced pomegranate.
Your neck has the grace of David's Tower,
with its jewels hung round it
like the shields of a thousand warriors.
And your breasts—like the twin fawns of a gazelle,
hiding among the lilies.
All my nights, till the sun
comes chasing its shadows,
let me play in these perfumed hills,
these mountains scented with myrrh.
[You are utterly beautiful, my dearest;
there's not a single flaw in you.] (a)*

(a) Ref: CEB

SERMO DIVINA (Message) Pastor Kayli Freeman

VISIO DIVINA

WE RESPOND

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

“Look Around”

Emily Bachl, vocalist

*Original song for the series by Marsha Jean Moors-Charles,
arr. Caleb Collins*

L Throughout this series, we have been “looking around” to more deeply notice the fullness of life, it’s joys and sorrows, it’s poignant and mundane moments, it’s little victories and immense tragedy. We are coming to know greater compassion by coming to care more deeply as we contemplate with more intention and awareness. Today we

acknowledge the pain of judgment that comes with captivity to expectations that do not come from God, but from others or even ourselves. We hold to standards that are ultimately not what true beauty, or a “beautiful life” is about. In this time of prayer, I invite you to open your hands upward on your lap and allow these expectations to lift. Feel the heaviness of “measuring up” drift away from you, replaced by compassion for yourself and by extension, for others..

Music:

Verse 1: When you're tired and feel you can't get through

Uncertainty comes over you

Just Look Around

When your problems seem too much to bear

Unsure if there's someone who cares

Just Look Around

Whether stranger, neighbor, family, or a friend

On each other in tough times we can depend

***Chorus:* Look Around – kindness, love is ours to share**

We can see it everywhere

Though it might seem like forever

Look Around—for even in the darkest night

Things are gonna be alright

We'll get through this together

Just Look Around!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

Music:

**Verse 2: Sometimes it can be hard to see
Life is full of possibilities
So Look Around
Each new day is such a gift
Embrace it and the life you live
And Look Around
Outstretched arms and many helping hands
Don't give up on all your dreams and all your plans**

**Don't lose faith,
Keep hope alive
Cause together we'll get to the other side
When you feel weak, I'll be strong
And remind you that you're never alone**

Chorus:

**Look Around – kindness, love is ours to share
We can see it everywhere
Though it might seem like forever
Look Around—for even in our darkest night
Things are gonna be alright
We'll get through this together
Just Look Around! Look Around!
Just Look Around.**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

L As the song says, “we’ll get through this together”... “with outstretched arms and many helping hands.” Our offerings are part of the way we can bind up the broken and affirm the worth of all.

MUSIC OFFERING

Battle Hymn of Republic Julia Ward Howe
Jacob Roth, organ
Mitchell Roth, trumpet

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Go to <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> and click **GIVE ONLINE**.

AMAZON SMILE Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <https://smile.amazon.com>.

BEAUTIFUL SIGNS OF LOVE

Please continue to send us pictures of you and your friends or family with their hands in the heart position. We'd like to show them each week so that we can see each other, give thanks for each other, and pray for each other.

BENEDICTION

① This week's invitation to a contemplative practice based on our message could occur in two ways we've experienced already in this worship. You may want to set a reminder to spend some silent time with your palms open on your lap, contemplating further what expectations and messages you are holding about what you "should be." Imagine them lifted and released. You could also "mirror" (to use a pun) the children's activity by placing a note on a mirror you frequent daily: "Look at you! So beautiful, Dearest. So beautiful. Believe this voice of the Divine Lover... for the beauty of the earth."

The world is so varied and beautiful.

Seek wisdom wherever it is to be found.*
And may the goodness of the Creator,
the companionship of the Christ,
and the insight of the Spirit,
infuse your life now and always.
Amen.

BENEDICTION SONG REPRISE

**God of all to you, we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise!**

WE GO FORTH

POSTLUDE

My Country Tis' of Thee

Samuel F. Smith, Thesaurus

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