

Order of Service  
**For the Good of All**  
November 29, 2009

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**Gathering Music** Susan Wakeman

**Individual Candle Lighting** ♥

**Declaration** (unison reading)

*Love is the spirit of this fellowship  
And service is its law.*

*This is our great covenant:  
To dwell together in peace,  
To seek truth in love,  
And to help one another.*

-- James Vila Blake

**Prelude** Susan Wakeman

**Hymn #318 We Would Be One**

**Welcome & Announcements** Board Member

**Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting**

"Science has a useful set of insights and they depend on the rigorous adherence to fact and inferential reasoning. It has a certain power. It also has a certain narrowness because it cannot illuminate the larger question of beginning, end and purpose." -Robert Jastrow, physicist

**Chalice Response**

*Rise up, O flame, by thy light glowing,  
show to us beauty, vision and joy.*

**Offertory** Susan Wakeman

*This is a Fellowship of ourselves.  
Its energy and resources are our energy and resources.  
Its wealth is what we share.  
When we contribute to the life of this community  
We affirm our lives within it.*

-- Mary Allen Walden

**Story for All Ages** Karen Winchell "Giving Thanks" by Chief Jake Swamp

Form an arch for the children as they go to their classes.  
*Sing and rejoice. Sing and rejoice.*  
*Let all things living now sing and rejoice. (4X)*

*Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Sermon by Karen Winchell*

## **Connecting in Fellowship**

### **Responsive Reading #598**

**Sharing of Joys and Sorrows** Bob Winchell, Worship Associate

### **Meditation and Prayer**

Please join me now in a moment of silence to consider the joys and sorrows you have heard today and those within your own heart.

### **Readings**

"Our Mother Earth is Growing Old Now" from *Wisdom of the Elder -The Haudenosaunee Declaration of the Iroquois*

Brothers and Sisters: We point out to you the Spiritual Path of Righteousness and Reason. Be bring to your thought and minds that right-minded human beings seek to promote above all else the life of all things. We direct to your minds that peace is not merely the absence of war, but the constant effort to maintain harmonious existence between all peoples, from individual to individual and between humans and other beings of this planet. We point out to you that a Spiritual Consciousness is the Path to Survival of Humankind. We who walk on Mother Earth occupy this place for only a short time. It is our duty as human beings to preserve the life that is here for the benefit of the generations yet unborn.

"What is Social Security" from *Mutant Message Down Under -Marlo Morgan*

The purpose of the plant kingdom is to feed animals and humans, to hold the soil together, to enhance beauty, to balance the atmosphere. I was told the plants and trees sing to us humans silently, and all they ask in return is for us to sing to them. My scientific mind immediately translated this to mean nature's oxygen-carbon dioxide exchange. The primary purpose of the animal is not to feed humans, but it agrees to that when necessary. It is to balance the atmosphere, and be a companion and teacher by example. So each morning the tribe sends out a thought or message to the animals and plants in front of us. They say, "We are walking your way. We are coming to honor your purpose for existence." It is up to the plants and animals to make their own arrangements about who will be chosen.

The Real People tribe never go without food. Always, the universe responds to their mind-talk. They believe the world is a place of abundance. Just as you and I might gather to listen to someone play the piano, and honor that

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talent and purpose, they sincerely do the same thing with everything in nature. When a snake appeared on our path, it was obviously there to provide our dinner. The daily food was a very important part of our evening celebration. I learned that the appearance of food was not taken for granted. It was first requested, always expected to appear, and did appear, but was gratefully received and genuine gratitude was always given. The tribe begins each day by saying thank you to Oneness for the day, for themselves, their friends, and the world. They sometimes ask for specifics, but it is always phrased "If it is in my highest good and the highest good for all life everywhere."

### **Interlude (Round) #389 Gathered Here**

**Sermon** For the Good of All      Karen Winchell

On Veterans Day this year I became enthralled with the story of Desmond T. Doss. Mr. Doss served in WWII not as a soldier, but as an army medic because one of God's Commandments is "Thou Shalt Not Kill". I tell his story because I too am a pacifist and learned as a child how to treat others through the Ten Commandments. As a devout Seventh-Day Adventist he refused to carry a gun. Most if not all of the men in his company derided him as a "conchie" and gave him no peace. I wonder, would I have the courage and conviction to remain non-violent in such a hostile environment? Even when his own life hung in the balance, he prayed for the strength to keep his promise to God, a higher calling.

He eventually became well-known for his bravery in the face of danger by rescuing and providing field medicine to dying and wounded soldiers on Guam, Leyte and Okinawa. In a particularly gruesome and deadly fight on an escarpment on Okinawa he is credited with rescuing 75 to 100 men during 5 hellish hours of open fire and artillery attacks. No matter the threat to himself, he carried out his duty and gave himself 100% to the task of saving lives.

He always carried a little Bible given to him by his wife as a wedding gift. After being severely wounded he awoke on a hospital ship and realized his Bible was not in his pocket. He asked someone nearby to "Please get

back to my men. I've lost my Bible." The very men who had earlier ridiculed and hated him now scoured a battlefield in order to find the little lost Bible. The life changing effect Mr. Doss had on the other men inspire me. Here was a simple man who had the power to change others not be his words or his masculine prowess but by following a higher calling to see the worth and dignity of all human beings including the "enemy". President Truman awarded him a Medal of Honor in 1946. Truman is quoted as saying, "I'm proud of you. You really deserve this. I consider this a greater honor than being President," as he put the medal around Doss' neck. Mr. Doss was disabled not only by his war wounds, but he also became deaf from the medications given to fight the tuberculosis he acquired on Okinawa. His story touched me to the core. On what do I base my belief in equity and compassion for all of life?

There are lessons all around if we are open to learning. In the 80's, I attended a 10-week session of spiritual study at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center. There I became exposed to some big ideas...such as liberation theology, creation-centered theology and a vision of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. Of course, these big ideas were grounded in radical Christian theology. Radical meaning, original, deep-seated and primary... in other words, going back to the roots. For many conservative, Christians, the ideas and teachings at Holden Village bordered on heretical, stretching their accepted and long-held beliefs. When I returned home, I joined an organization called the Fellowship of Reconciliation. FOR...was founded in 1914 by an English Quaker and a German Lutheran who vowed to work for peace even though their countries were at war. My roots, too are German Lutheran. FOR has a revolutionary vision of a beloved community where differences are respected, conflicts are addressed nonviolently, oppressive structures are dismantled and where people live in harmony with the earth, nurtured by diverse spiritual traditions that foster compassion, solidarity and reconciliation. Through FOR my world opened up to include diverse communities of Buddhists, Jews, indigenous peoples and many others.

The injustices suffered by the Native Americans in our country and indigenous people everywhere especially concerned me. My work at the Seattle Indian Health Board gave me a glimpse into urban Indian life afflicted by poverty, addiction and violence, the result of loss of

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culture, language and loss of connection to the natural world. Forbidden to practice their sacred ways and forced to give up their children to be indoctrinated by a "civilized" education. Yet, these same urban Indians enjoy a connectedness through a rich heritage of drumming and spiritual singing which brings together relatives over long distances. Efforts by local tribes show a return to Native values of family, art and language in the community they call "Indian country".

It seems ironic how indigenous peoples who used to be seen as savage and having low-level intelligence have more recently been acknowledged as teachers in how to adapt and honor our environment. Do you remember the powerful commercial in the 70's showing water and air pollution and the Native American standing there with tears in his eyes? A number of years ago, I read the book, *Mutant Message Down Under* and was vividly reminded of a deep spiritual truth...the cycle of asking, expecting fulfillment and deep gratitude in response. The universe or mystery or God as you understand it will meet your needs, if it's in the highest good. Living every day with this understanding puts us on a higher spiritual plane of existence. Living on a higher spiritual plane gives us access to the manifestation of our intentions. Think of the phrase, "build it and they will come". If we build on our connection to others and concern ourselves with other peoples welfare, our own needs will be met. I have heard this spiritual truth from many teachers... Louise Hay, Dr. Wayne Dyer, Thich Nhat Hanh and the Bible. In the Bible, the book of John, Chapter 15 starts by telling the Christians they form the branches of one vine, all gathering their strength and support from the same roots. Then it goes on to say, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish and it will be done for you." What does it mean to ask for something in this way? I've always thought it was pretentious for people to pray to God for specific things or specific events to happen or not to happen. Wayne Dyer calls this the vending machine prayer. We put the prayers in and expect the goodies to be dispensed. Yet, if we shift our method of making the request to include the words, "if it's in my highest good and the highest good for all life everywhere" there is an explicit acceptance of the outcome. We may not immediately know if our prayers are answered, but we can trust that whatever is meant to happen will. I think it means that my needs cannot be placed above the needs of the entire planet. The continued existence of

life may depend on us all re-evaluating our place in nature and our place in the community of human beings.

I watched a documentary on public television recently focusing on periods of climate instability being key to understanding the evolutionary leap from small bipedal apes to the larger-brained toolmakers. In the first segment, they outlined the geologic evidence showing periodic climate changes from volcanoes to severe drought to monsoons where the environment changed from dry, to wet and then dry again over the space of an evolutionary blink of an eye.

The scientists hypothesize that instead of the slow drying-out of the savannah in Africa being the impetus for human evolutionary change, it was drastic shifts in the environment thought to be the driving force. They matched a prolonged period of climate variability to beginnings of using stone tools and of eating meat and of our own genus, *Homo*. Then another period of climate variability corresponded with the development of modern human behavior and our species, *Homo sapiens*. Many branches of the evolutionary tree developed and died off including a species called *Homo erectus*. *Homo erectus* survived for about 1.5 million years. Our own species has only been around for 200,000 years. We like to think of ourselves on the top of the evolutionary ladder, but will we survive the current environmental changes or become extinct like *Homo erectus*? If humans are adapted to change itself, how will we adapt? Will we rely on technology? On wisdom? On vision? On interdependence? On nature as teacher?

A lesson can be learned from the Ancient Ones of Australia. Marlo Morgan, author of *Mutant Message Down Under* says, "In the dry heart of the Outback there remains a slow, steady ancient heartbeat, a unique group of people not concerned with racism, but concerned only with other people and the environment. To understand that pulse is to better understand being human and human beingness. She invites her readers to "taste the message, savor what is right for you and spit out the rest; after all, that is the law of the universe." They call themselves Real People. They recognize their reliance on nature for survival in what we would consider the very harshest environment. What can we learn from them?

Start every morning with a prayer of thanks.

Rely on the water in foods. Water is precious and not to be wasted or contaminated. Save some for others.

Knowledge of natural medicinal compounds including healing techniques such as massage and spinal adjustments. An elder took the author's swollen and cut feet onto her lap, rubbed on a medicinal salve and sang a healing song. "She is apologizing to your feet. She is telling them how much you appreciate them. She is telling them how everyone in this group appreciates your feet and she is asking your feet to get well and strong. She makes special sounds for healing wounds and cuts. She also tones sounds that draw out the swelling fluids. She asks that your feet become very strong and tough. It wasn't my imagination. The burning, stinging, raw sores really did begin to ease and I felt gradual relief."

Natural dowsing ability is given to all humans. This skill requires humans to listen to one's intuitive direction. Again, first asking permission, expecting results and accepting the gift with a grateful celebration.

The power of memory is retained by practice and recall. Songs help, keep singing. The Ancient Ones have no written language as they believe it will ruin their tribal memory which is much longer than our "civilized" brains can retain.

Beauty and oneness of all life. Even snakes and bush flies have their place in the circle of life.

How to maintain warmth on the coldest nights. Lay with feet touching in a circle with hot rocks under the sand. This creates a circle of warmth. Sleep close enough to share the blankets. Imagine what this looks like from above...a daisy of people.

How to discover our own talent and honor it as well as honor everyone else. The Ancient Ones are named for their talent such as Tool Maker, Story Teller, Secret Keeper and Big Music. Everyone gets another year older, no talent needed. Instead of celebrating birthdays, they celebrate getting better and then they change their name. Story Teller becomes Great Story Teller. You are the judge of when you deserve a celebration and everyone is happy to come to your party.

How long is forever? The author writes, "Everything in Oneness has a purpose. There are no freaks, misfits or accidents. There are only things

humans do not understand...The missionaries taught: Jesus is the Son of God...Divine Oneness in human form...Jesus did not come to the Real People tribe...it wasn't our message. We were already living His truth. To us, Oneness is not a thing...not an essence that surrounds things or is present inside of things...it is everything!"

Mental telepathy is possible as a form of communication. This is especially helpful in an environment where people are spread out so far and wide, but it only works between people who never tell a lie, not even a partial truth or small fabrication. One must be unafraid to have their minds open to receive and willing to give information, where motives are exposed and examined. This also requires an ability to forgive and be forgiven. A person must be at peace with everything; no judgment allowed. It is vital that I accept, be truthful and love myself so I can do the same with others.

**\* Hymn #309 Earth is Our Homeland**

**\* Closing Song (twice)**

*Carry the flame of peace and love (3 X)  
Until we meet again*

**\* Benediction**

\* Congregation standing, as it is comfortable to do so.

♥ *You may wish to light a candle before the service, to express a personal joy or sorrow, using the bowl in front of the pulpit.*

**Join us -**

**Next Sunday at 10:30 am -**

**"Seek and You Will Find" - Rev. Davis**