

MUSIC SPIRITUALITY
A worship serviced offered at Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist
On June 27, 2010

Call to Worship

Good morning and welcome. My name is Janeane Weprin and I am a member of Countryside Church. This service is much like one done back in November of 2006. The main difference is that we have different speakers giving their musical affirmations this morning. Last time, we were truly awed and honored by what the speakers said. Each person's affirmation was unique and inspiring, and their moving words can still be found on our website. I am sure that this morning's affirmations will be just as remarkable. We are blessed by the gifts of their words and the sharing of their truth.

I'd like to begin with a quote from The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards:

Music is like you touch the pulse of the world. Music is always happening, and sometimes you get to touch it for a while, and when you do, you know that everything's connected to everything else.

And from the Dalai Lama:

Among the many forms in which the human spirit has tried to express its innermost yearnings and perceptions, music is perhaps the most universal. It symbolizes the yearnings for harmony, with oneself and with others, with nature and with the spiritual and sacred within us and around us. There is something in music that transcends and unites. This is evident in the sacred music of every community - music that expresses the universal yearning that is shared by people all over the globe.

Reflection

Music is a complicated subject – as complicated as we humans are. Just to get you thinking about this, here are some questions:

What is music? Where does it come from?

What is the purpose of music?

Why is it so powerful and why does it move us so?

Is music a reflection of the sacred?

Or is music human-made?

Is bird-song music? What about the sound of the wind through trees, the bubbling of a stream, or the crashing of waves?

Does music exist if no one hears it?

I could go on and on. I don't have the answers to those questions, if the answers even exist. What I do know, because it clearly evident, is that music is important to this church and a significant part of every worship service. We are blessed with the talents of many who give their time, efforts, and hearts to contribute to the music here. Music is, in fact, an aspect of how we worship at Countryside. When we sing together, when we listen together, when we are moved by music, that is worship. Can you imagine our services without music? I can't. It just would not be the same.

I invite you to consider if and why music matters to you, how it affects you, how it may be connected to your spirituality, to your life. As you listen to each of our speakers this morning, you may find you resonate with part or all of what they say, or not at all. Only you know what music means to you.