

*Both Sides Now* by Joni Mitchell

Rows and flows of angel hair  
And ice cream castles in the air  
And feather canyons everywhere,  
I've looked at clouds that way.  
But now they only block the sun,  
They rain and snow on everyone  
So many things I would have done,  
But clouds got in my way.

I've looked at clouds from both sides now  
From up and down and still somehow  
It's cloud's illusions I recall  
I really don't know clouds at all

Moons and Junes and Ferris wheels,  
The dizzy dancing way that you feel  
As every fairy tale comes real,  
I've looked at love that way.  
But now it's just another show,  
You leave 'em laughing when you go  
And if you care, don't let them know,  
Don't give yourself away.

I've looked at love from both sides now  
From give and take and still somehow

It's love's illusions I recall  
I really don't know love at all  
  
Tears and fears and feeling proud,  
To say "I love you" right out loud  
Dreams and schemes and circus crowds,  
I've looked at life that way.

Oh but now old friends they're acting  
strange,  
They shake their heads, they say I've  
changed  
Well something's lost, but something's  
gained  
In living every day.

I've looked at life from both sides now  
From win and lose and still somehow  
It's life's illusions I recall  
I really don't know life at all

I've looked at life from both sides now  
From up and down, and still somehow  
It's life's illusions I recall  
I really don't know life at all

Questions for the Homily Topic

What is in balance in our lives?

To balance that out, what could be more balanced than it has been lately?

**Meditation** (Close eyes if you like)

Over our heads, the great wheel of stars shifts, the autumnal (or spring) equinox manifests itself, and for one precious instant darkness and light exist in balanced proportion to one another.

Within our minds the great web of neurons shifts, new consciousness arises, and for one precious instant experience and meaning exist together as revelation and epiphany.

Within our hearts the great rhythm of our lives shifts, a new way of being reveals itself, and for one precious instant, the nexus of the body and the seat of the soul truly exist as one.

Let us give thanks for those times in our lives when all seems in balance. For those times are rare. The equinox shall pass, the revelation may be forgotten, and our actions will not always reflect our true selves. But through our gratitude we may remember who we are, reflect on who we may become, and restore the balance which brings equanimity to our lives.

Let us be quiet for a moment, together.

**Thomas Rhodes**

# Seeking Balance The Autumn Equinox



## Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists 21 September 2014

### The Seven Principles

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

# Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists

21 September 2014

*Love is the spirit of this church, the quest of truth its sacrament, service its prayer.*

## Centering Thought to ponder at the beginning:

Blessings on him who invented sleep, the mantle that covers all human thoughts, the food that satisfies hunger, the drink that slakes thirst, the fire that warms the cold, the cold that moderates heat, and, lastly, the balance and weight that equalizes the shepherd and the king, the simpleton, and the sage.  
- Cervantes, *Don Quixote*

## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude** *Both Sides Now* Joni Mitchell

**Opening Reading** (#538 in Singing the Living Tradition)

**Harbingers of Frost** By Robert T. Weston

Autumn, we know, Is life en route to death. The asters are but harbingers of frost.	So may we know, accept, embrace, The mystery of life we hold a while.  Nor mourn that it outgrows each separate self, but still rejoice that we may have our day.
The trees, flaunting their colors at the sky, In other times will follow where the leaves have fallen, And so shall we.	Lift high our colors to the sky! and give, In our time, fresh glory to the earth.
Yet other lives will come.	

**Hymn #1051** *We Are....* in Singing the Journey

**Chalice Lighting** In unison:

Come we now out of the darkness of our unknowing  
and the dusk of our dreaming;  
Come we now from far places.  
Come we now into the twilight of our awakening  
and the reflection of our gathering.  
Come we now all together.  
We bring, unilluminated, our dark caves of doubting;  
We seek, unbedazzled, the clear light of understanding.  
May the sparks of our joining kindle our resolve,  
brighten our spirits, reflect our love,  
and unshadow our days.  
Come we now; enter the dawning.

Annie Foerster

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

We invite you to light a candle at this time as an expression of your joy or concern that you'd like to share.

## Story for All Ages

**Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices**

by Paul Fleischman Illustrated by Eric Beddows

**Meditation** (See back of bulletin)

## Homily & Discussion

*Balance* a sermon by Rev. Sylvia Stocker

**Hymn #1064** *Blue Boat Home* in Singing the Journey

## Benediction

Wisdom, be thou more precious than possessions without end.  
Truth, be thou more sacred than the pleasing of a friend.  
Courage, be thou our strength to gain the distant goal.  
Beauty, send thou a cleansing wonder to our souls.  
Kindness, be thou our guide upon life's way.  
Peace, be thou the benediction of our day. Amen.

~Reverend Don Harrington

## Extinguishing the Chalice In unison:

"We extinguish this flame, but not the  
light of truth, the warmth of community,  
or the fire of commitment. These, we carry  
in our hearts until we are together again."

## Schedule

**5 October 2014**

**14:00**

[Discussion Group](#)

**"The Divinity School Address"**

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

(<http://www.emersoncentral.com/texts.htm>.)

**17-19 October 2014**

**EUU Fall Retreat in Spa, Belgium**

<http://www.europeanuu.org/page7.php>