

*Summer Solstice
Longest Day of the Year*



**Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists
30 June 2013**

The Song of Wandering Aengus

I went out to the hazel wood/Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand/And hooked a berry to a thread;
When white moths were on the wing/And moth-like stars were
flickering out
I dropped the berry in a stream/And caught a little silver trout.

When I had laid it on the floor/I went to blow the fire a-flame,
But something rustled on the floor/And someone called me by my
name:

It had become a glimmering girl/With apple blossoms in her hair
Who called me by my name and ran/And faded through the
brightening air.

Though I am old with wandering/Through hollow lands and hilly
lands,
I will find out where she has gone/And kiss her lips and take her
hands;
And walk among long dappled grass/And pluck till time and times
are done
The silver apples of the moon/The golden apples of the sun.

~William Butler Yeats

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Reading

Oh, what a catastrophe, what a maiming of love when it was made a personal, merely personal feeling, taken away from the rising and setting of the sun, and cut off from the magic connection of the solstice and equinox. This is what is the matter with us, we are bleeding at the roots, because we are cut off from the earth and sun and stars, and love is a grinning mockery, because, poor blossom, we plucked it from its stem on the tree of life, and expected it to keep on blooming in our civilized vase on the table.

D.H. Lawrence

Hymn 188 *Come, Come Whoever You Are*

Chalice Lighting In unison:

In this small flame dwell:

the beacon light of lanterns guiding travelers home;

the warmth of hearth fires tended through the generations;

the transforming energy of furnaces and the power and life of our sun.

May these blessings --

warmth and light and life-giving energy --

be kindled in each of us. - Jean L. Wahlstrom

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.

"I light this last candle for all joys and concerns left unspoken this day."

Story for All Ages

Romany Free by Robert Vavra, Paintings by Fleur Cowles

Hymn 298 *Wake Now, My Senses*

Reading

From "Light" Vol. 26, No. 2, Summer 2001

Parabola: Myth, Tradition and the Search For Meaning.

The face of the Earth viewed from celestial space presents a unique appearance, different from all other heavenly bodies. The surface that separates the planet from the cosmic medium is the biosphere.... The sun has completely transformed the face of the Earth by penetrating the biosphere, which has changed the history and destiny of our planet by converting rays of the sun into new and varied forms of energy. At the same time, the biosphere is largely the product of this radiation.

Activated by radiation, the matter of the biosphere collects and redistributes solar energy, and converts it ultimately into a free energy capable of doing work on Earth. The outer layer of the earth must, therefore, not be considered as a region of matter alone, but also as a region of energy and a source of transformation of the planet.... The biosphere is at least as much a *creation* of the sun as a result of terrestrial processes. Ancient religious intuitions that considered terrestrial creatures, especially man, to be *children of the sun* were far nearer the truth than is thought by those who see earthly beings simply as arising from blind and accidental interplay of matter and forces. Creatures on Earth are the fruit of extended, complex processes, and are an essential part of a harmonious cosmic mechanism....

Vernadsky, Vladimir The Biosphere,

Meditation

The Song of Wandering Aengus

words by W.B. Yeats

from **Celtic Solstice** (99) Paul Winter, vocal by Karan

Casey

Responsive Reading 548

We stand at the edge of summer

The sun has at last warmed us enough that we begin to trust in its presence.

The last burst of spring blossoms, lavender and white and deep pink banks of rhododendron are giving way to summer peonies and roses.

O source of the turning seasons,

O earth, of life, of promise gradually becoming fulfillment,

May your people find a lightening of the burdens with the brightening of the sky.

Discussion

Summer Solstice: The Longest Day of the Year

Solstice Song

We are the dance of the moon and sun/We are the light that's in everyone

We are the turning of the tide/We are the hope that's deep inside

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

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Come, Come, Whoever You Are

188

♩ = 56

1 Come, come, who - ev - er you are, wan - der - er,
2 wor - ship - er, lov - er of leav - ing. Ours is no car - a - van
3 of de - spair. Come, yet a - gain come.
4

Words: Adapt. from Rumi, 1207-1273
Music: Lynn Adair Ungar, 1963-

PILGRIMAGE
Irregular

298 Wake, Now, My Senses

♩ = 108 Unison

1. Wake, now, my sens - es, and hear the earth call;
2. Wake, now, my rea - son, reach out to the new;
3. Wake, now, com - pas - sion, give heed to the cry;

feel the deep pow - er of be - ing in all,
join with each pil - grim who quests for the true;
voic - es of suf - fer - ing fill the wide sky;

keep, with the web of cre - a - tion your vow,
hon - or the beau - ty and wis - dom of time;
take as your neigh - bor both strang - er and friend,

giv - ing, re - ceiv - ing as love shows us how.
suf - fer thy lim - it, and praise the sub - lime.
pray - ing and striv - ing their hard - ship to end.