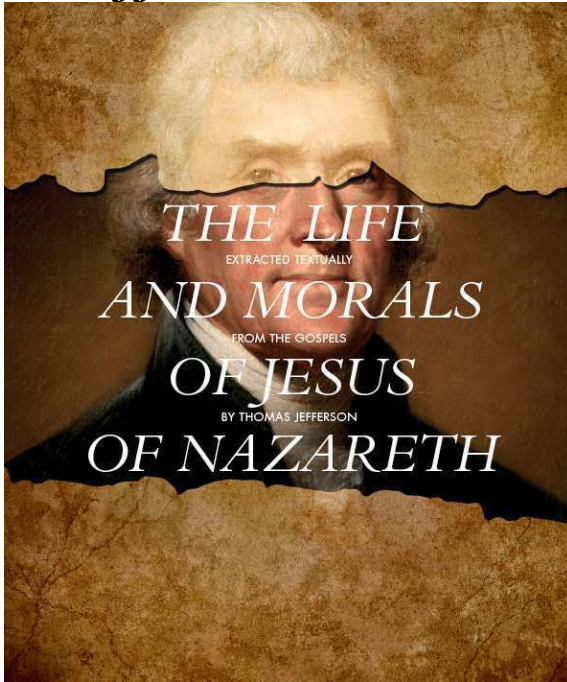


Jefferson's Bible



WiesbadenUnitarianUniversalists

20 October 2013

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

Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists

20October2013

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn 108 *My Life Flows On In Endless Song*

Chalice Lighting In response:

We bid you welcome, who come with weary spirit seeking rest

*Who come with troubles that are too much with you,
Who come hurt and afraid*

We bid you welcome, who come with hope in your heart

*Who come with anticipation in your step,
Who come proud and joyous*

We bid you welcome, who are seekers of a new faith

*Who come to probe and explore,
Who come to learn*

We bid you welcome, who enter this hall as a homecoming

*Who have found here room for your spirit,
Who find in this people a family*

Whoever you are, whatever you are

Wherever you are on your journey *We bid you welcome*

~Richard Gilbert

Opening Reading

A letter from Thomas Jefferson to John Adams Jan 24, 1814

The whole history of these books is so defective and doubtful that it seems vain to attempt minute inquiry into it: and such tricks have been played with their text, and with the texts of other books relating to them, that we have a right, from that cause, to entertain such doubt what parts of them are genuine. In the New Testament there is internal evidence that parts of it have proceeded from an extraordinary man; and that other parts are of the fabric of very inferior minds. It is as easy to separate those parts, as to pick out diamonds from dunghills.

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

The Treasure by Uri Shulevitz

*"Go now in peace, go now in peace/May the spirit of love surround
you/*

Everywhere, everywhere/ You may go."

Second Reading

8th century Zen story

When Hui-hai was a young monk and first came to the great Master Ma-tsu, the Master asked him, "What have you come here for?" Hui-hai said, I have come seeking the Buddha's teaching. "What a fool you are!" Ma-tsu said. "You have the greatest treasure in the world inside you, and yet you go around asking other people for help. What good is this? I have nothing to give you." Hui-hai bowed and said, "Please Master, tell me what this treasure is." Ma-tsu said, "Where is your question coming from? THIS is your treasure. It is precisely what is asking the question at this very moment. Everything is stored in this precious treasure-house of yours. It is there at your disposal, you can use it as you wish, nothing is lacking. You are the master of everything. Why then are you running away from yourself and seeking for things outside?" Upon hearing these words, Hui-hai realized his own mind. Beside himself with joy, he bowed deeply to the Master.

Hymn 184 *Be Ye Lamps Unto Yourselves*

Meditation

Third Reading

Discussion

Jefferson's Bible

Based on Jefferson's **The life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth**

This is the result of cutting out from the New Testament the things Jefferson believed that Jesus said and leaving behind the supernatural, the miracles, and the obvious attempts for social control.

And Stephen Mitchell's **The Gospel According to Jesus**

This a Buddhist's take on both Jefferson's project, and the larger goal of grounding what Jesus might have said in the context of what all "spiritual masters" have said across cultures and eras.

Hymn 318 *We Would Be One*

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 which it here symbolizes. These, we carry in our hearts until we are together again.”

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Please join us for refreshment and conversation after the service. Our next service will be 17 November 2013 at Hainerberg Chapel, beginning at 14:00. After that service and refreshment there will be an open organizational meeting for all friends and potential members of Wiesbaden UU.

### **Third Reading**

You will next read the New Testament. It is the history of a personage called Jesus. Keep in your mind the opposite pretensions: 1, of those who say he was begotten by God, born of a virgin, suspended and reversed the laws of nature at will, and ascended bodily into heaven; and 2, of those who say he was a man of illegitimate birth, of a benevolent heart, enthusiastic mind, who set out without pretensions to divinity, ended in believing them, and was punished capitally for sedition.... Do not be frightened from this inquiry by any fear of its consequences. If it ends in a belief that there is no God, you will find incitements to virtue in the comfort and pleasantness you feel in its exercise, and the love of others which it will procure you. If you find reason to believe there is a God, a consciousness that you are acting under his eye, and that he approves you, will be a vast additional incitement. ... You must lay aside all prejudice on both sides, and neither believe nor reject anything, (just) because other persons... have rejected or believed it. Your own reason is the only oracle given you by heaven, and you are answerable, not for the rightness, but uprightness, of the decision.

**Website:** <http://wiesbadenuu.weebly.com>

**Facebook:** Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists  
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/568029759900243/>)

#### **Calendar**

**1-3 November EUU Retreat, Oberwesel, Germany.**

<http://europeanuu.org/page22.php>

**17 November 14:00**

Service, Hainerberg Chapel

**15 December 14:00**

Service, Hainerberg Chapel

**22 December Winter Solstice Celebration**

Contact [WiesbadenUU@gmail.com](mailto:WiesbadenUU@gmail.com) for details.