**#439 Singing the Living Tradition**

***"We Gather in Reverence,"* Sophia Lyon Fahs**

We gather in reverence before the wonder of life—

*The wonder of this moment*

The wonder of being together, so close yet so apart—

*Each hidden in our own secret chamber,*

Each listening, each trying to speak—

*Yet none fully understanding, none fully understood.*

We gather in reverence before all intangible things—

That eyes see not, nor ears can detect—

*That hands can never touch, that space*

*cannot hold, and time cannot measure.*

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**#652 Singing the Living Tradition**

***"The Great End In Religious Instruction"* William Ellery Channing**

“The great end in religious instruction, is not to stamp our minds

upon the young, but to stir up their own;

*not to make them see with our eyes,*

*but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own;*

not to give them a definite amount of knowledge,

but to inspire a fervent love of truth;

*not to form an outward regularity,*

*but to touch inward springs;*

not to bind them by ineradicable prejudices

to our particular sect or peculiar notions,

*but to prepare them for impartial, conscientious judging*

*of whatever subjects may be offered to their decision;*

not to burden memory, but to quicken

and strengthen the power of thought.”

*Not to impose religion upon them in the form of arbitrary rules,*

 *but to awaken the conscience, the moral discernment.*

In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life.