

PEACE IN THE HEART

Annual Spring concert with Rev. Ed Thompson

March 27, 2022 10 AM

WELCOME AND OPENING WORDS

Rev. John Morehouse

CHALICE LIGHTING

TESTIMONIAL

Dayle Brownstein

HYMN #159 This Is My Song

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.

This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;

But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;

But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.

O hear my song, thou God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

COVENANT

Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.

This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,

To seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

PEACE IN THE HEART Introduction

Rev. Ed Thompson

How Lovely Are the Messengers (Mendelssohn)

The Choir

i carry your heart (Len Handler)

Love Blows (George Butterworth)

Michael Costantino

Faith Is a Bird (Elizabeth Alexander)

Women of the Choir

SINGLE CANDLE

Rev. Morehouse

MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

Ed Thompson

OFFERING <https://vop.tucw.org/> VENMO (The Unitarian Church in Westport, or @TUCW-1)

Save the Children US

Sure On This Shining Night (Morten Lauridsen)

The Choir

Somewhere Over the Rainbow (Arlen)

Chris Beaurline

Rise Up (Batie and Decilveo)

Jenna McPartland

CLOSING WORDS

Rev. Morehouse

POSTLUDE

The Choir

Shalom Havayreem

Shalom, havayreem, shalom havayreem, shalom, shalom!

L'hitraot, l'hitraot, shalom, shalom.

Flowers

Thank you, Ed, for your never-ending gifts to this congregation:
your genius, your music, and most of all, your love.

PEACE IN THE HEART

The focus for this spring concert/service is on peace: world peace, domestic peace, community peace, personal or interior peace. We begin with the state of the world community and our focus on Ukraine. Felix Mendelssohn's How ***Lovely Are the Messengers That Preach Us the Gospel of Peace***. We dedicate this to the people of Ukraine and to all people who are suffering from violence.

In the Book of Proverbs (4:23) it says "Keep your heart in all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." In our own time the poet E.E. Cummings has expressed that thought in his own unique way in the poem ***i carry your heart in my heart***. During this challenging time we do our best to take care of each other, and to carry each other's heart. Len Handler uses his compositional skills to leave those words express themselves in a dramatic and meaningful way. Both the poetry and the music have an energy that brings home a compassionate message.

British composer George Butterworth, (1885-1916) was a close friend of Ralph Vaughan Williams because they both enjoyed collecting folk-songs. Butterworth died as a young soldier in World War 1 at age 31. Butterworth set the words of William Henley to music and gave it the title ***Love Blows as the Wind Blows***. It is a poetic wish that our connections be stronger. It is also a statement of faith about our ability to remain strong in difficult times.

The Soul Matters theme for the month of March is Faith. Minneapolis composer Elizabeth Alexander set the words of Rabindranath Tagore: "Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark." Alexander set those words in a somewhat classical manner that has a touch of the blues. ***Faith Is a Bird*** reminds us that while we need faith in challenging times, the challenging times can also strengthen our faith. It is interesting that the last chord (on the word 'light') is a cluster of 6 tones that reflect a beautiful chord of light.

Several centuries ago, Julian of Norwich said: "All is well and all manner of thing shall be well." In the twentieth century poet James Agee wrote a poem that encapsulates the same concept. ***Sure on this Shining Night*** is an affirmation that we are held at all times. The poem centers itself around images of nature: "sure on this shining night of starmade shadows round,

kindness must watch for me this side the ground". It later says: "High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole." There is an aspect of gratitude for knowing that we are being held.

Contemporary composer Morten Lauridsen set these words in his own style that combines chant, bel canto, and twentieth-century counterpoint in an expressive way. It has become a favorite of choirs throughout the world.

Harold Arlen's famous ***Somewhere Over the Rainbow*** is a song from "The Wizard of Oz". The main character, Dorothy, sings it when she is on the journey to Oz and encounters all manner of fearful obstacles.

Rise Up was made famous by vocalist Andra Day. The message of the chorus is simple and direct: And I'll rise up, high like the waves, I'll rise up, in spite of the ache. I'll rise up, and I'll do it a thousand times again.

Shalom Havayreem is a very old Jewish folk song. It literally means: peace, my friends, until we meet again. Jewish scholars inform us that 'shalom' (peace) has greater depth and richness than any English translation. They suggest that its translation could be closer to "comprehensive well-being." And may it be so for all of us.

The Choir

SOPRANOS

Debbie Handler, Jalna Jager, Wendy Levy, Cathy Paine, Jane Sherman, Trina Wong

ALTOS

Beth Cliff, Carol Hamilton, Dale Hill, Linda Hudson, Kathryn McVicar, Betsey Miller, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Anita Pfluger

TENORS

Chris Beaurline, Rainy Broomfield, Dave Callan, Doug Flam, Gian Morresi, Julyen Norman

BASSES

Tom Hearne, Mike Costantino, Church Harrington, John McWeeney

ACCOMPANIST

Beth Palmer

Visiting us this week? We're glad you're here with us! Please feel free to leave us your contact information, and then tear off this page and place it in the offering plate, or hand to a minister on your way out. Questions? Contact beth@uuwestport.org

Name: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____



The Unitarian Church in Westport

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