



Soul Matters

What does it mean
to be a people of

Possibility?



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Calendar Connections

Click on the name on each event for more information or inspiration.

Interfaith:

- [Gantan-sai](#) - Japanese New Year (Shinto) - Jan. 1
- [Twelfth Night](#) (Christian) - Jan. 5
- [Epiphany](#) (Christian) - Jan. 6
- [World Religion Day](#) (Baha'i) - Jan. 20 (more found [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Tu BiShevat](#) (Jewish) - Jan. 20-21 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

Unitarian Universalist:

- [Thirty Days of Love](#) - Standing on the Side of Love Campaign - Jan.15 - Feb.14
- [Millard Fillmore's](#) Birthday - Jan. 7 (1800)
- [Joseph Tuckerman's](#) Birthday - Jan. 18 (1778) (more [here](#))

National & Cultural:

- [New Year's Day](#) - Jan.1
- The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln - Jan. 1 (1863)
- MLK, Jr. Day - Jan. 15 (connections [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Rowe vs. Wade](#) Anniversary - Jan. 22 (more [here](#))
- International Holocaust ([Shoah](#)) [Remembrance Day](#) - Jan. 27 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

For Fun and On the Fringe:

- [National Hug Day](#) - Jan.21
- [I'm Not Going To Take it Anymore](#) Day - Jan. 7th
- Birthday of [Thomas Merton](#) - Jan. 31 (1915) (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Belly Laugh Day](#) - Jan. 24 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

Chalice Lightings & Opening Words

With Our Wild Imaginings that a Better World is Possible

Rev. Leslie Takahashi-Morris

<http://www.northparish.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Jan-4-2015-Wild-Imaginings-for-New-year.pdf>

Come, come, whoever you are, with your hurts, your imperfections,
your places that feel raw and exposed.
Come, come whoever you are- with your strengths the world shudders to hold,
with your wild imaginings of a better world,
with your hopes that it seems no one wants to hear.
We will make a place for you, we will build a home together.
Ours is no caravan of despair. Come, yet again come.

The Possibilities in this Diverse Space

Alexis Engelbrecht (Soul Matters member)

In this space, with atheists and theists
With pagans and agnostics,
With humanists and theists, and those who reject labels,
What new understandings can emerge if we listen to one another?
In this space full of varied experiences, concerns, and hopes,
What new revelations may come if our hearts and minds are open?
In this space, where we covenant to seek the truth in love and to help one another,
What new ways of life may emerge and come into being?
Welcome to this diverse community... [and the possibilities within it, just waiting to be born.]

Each Day

Rev. Kristen Harper

Full reading found in [Voices From The Margins](#)
Each day provides us with another opportunity to love again...
This day is not different, this hour is no more unique...except...

Space for New Possibility

Rev. Gretchen Haley

What's going to happen?
Will everything be ok?
What can I do?
In these days we find ourselves
too often
Stuck with these questions on repeat
What's going to happen? / Will everything be ok? /What can I do?
We grasp at signs and markers, articles of news and analysis
Facebook memes and forwarded emails
As if the new zodiac
Capable of forecasting all that life may yet bring our way
As if we could prepare
As if life had ever made any promises of making sense, or turning out the way we'd thought
As if we are not also actors in this still unfolding story
For this hour we gather

To surrender to the mystery
To release ourselves from the needing to know
The yearning to have it all already figured out
And also the burden of believing we either have all the control, or none
Here in our song and our silence
Our stories and our sharing
We make space for a new breath, a new healing, a new possibility
To take root
That is courage
forged in the fire of our coming together
and
felt in the spirit that comes alive in this act of faith:
that we believe still, a new world is possible
That we are creating it, already, here, and now
Come let us worship together

Open to Many Possible Answers

Debra Faulk

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/open-unexpected-answers>

We seek our place in the world
and the answers to our hearts' deep questions.
As we seek, may our hearts be open to unexpected answers.
May the light of our chalice remind us that this is a community of warmth,
of wisdom and welcoming of multiple truths.

The Possibility of Our Worship

Norman V Naylor

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/5211.shtml>

Do not leave your cares at the door. Do not leave there your pain, your sorrow or your joys. Bring them with you into this place of acceptance and forgiveness. Place them on the common altar of life and offer them to the possibility of your worship. Come then and offer yourself to potential transformation by the creative process that flows through you and all life.
[Come. Come. Let us walk through that door.]

Welcome to this Place of Possibility

Marianne Hachten Cotter

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/5451.shtml>

Welcome to this place of possibility!
This is love's hearth, the home of hope,
a refuge for minds in search of truth
unfolding, ever beautiful, ever strange.

Here, compassion is our shelter,
freedom our protection
from the storms of bigotry and hate.

In this abode, may we find comfort and courage.
Here may our sight become vision
to see the unseen,
to glimpse the good that is yet to be.

Open Up the Doors to Possibility

Lindasusan Ulrich

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/open-doors>

Open up the doors

Push on looming wooden arches embroidered with ironwork

Brace shoulders against the weight of history unmoved

Slough off the musty smell of unused joy and stored up sorrow

Knock rust off the hinges if you have to

And let your breath precede you inside

Open the doors more

Make room for a shaft of sunlight to cross the threshold

Give the dust motes something to dance about

Peek through a single slice of possibility

And name even the half-hidden truths you see

Open the doors wider still

Pour yourself through the gap

Strut or sneak or sidle, as suits you best

Cleanse whatever scrapes catch your skin

And bind up the wounds that keep you from entering whole

Open the doors as far as they will go

Draw on the strength of the stones beneath you

Ground yourself in a firm sense of who you are

Stand as a beacon welcoming the next seeker

And shine far beyond the lintel and sill

Open all that you are

Heighten and deepen your connections to the world around you

Broaden your definition of neighbor

Grow into the largest target for grace that you can muster

And pray to become a gateway for even greater love and compassion

Open up the doors, my friends,

[May today usher us through...]

Let Astonishment be Possible

Rev. Gretchen Haley

Whatever you have come in

anticipating

Whatever you expect

Or worry

For our world, for the future

For our lives -

Let it go

Make space in your heart

to be surprised

Make room in your soul

For a new story to take shape

Let astonishment be possible
At this life that remains
a miracle
Imagine here the bursting of joy
Relentless and resilient
Coming in waves
Washing over us
with music,
and story
silence,
and still this dreaming together
Being hope for each other
and courage
to believe
in this new day
dawning
for us all.
Come let us worship, together.

Meditations, Prayers & Blessings

Another Direction

Rev. Sandra Fees

The moment comes
when a choice arises.

A holy moment.

A decision must be made.

Do I remain as I am

or do I risk inching, leaping,

flowing in another direction?

Do I risk what I think

I already know and already am?

Do I forfeit my security

for the possibility that a simple shift

may alter the course of my life,

even perhaps the life of another?

I long to let go of all that restrains me
so that I might pursue the impossible
and surmount the insurmountable:

to let go of anger,

to let go of the need to be in control,

to forgive a friend,

to forgive myself,

to refuse what thwarts my spirit,

to refuse what limits my mind,

to surrender to what will come,

to surrender to this holy moment

I have let slip away for too long.

Out of Our Yearning.. May We Proclaim the Possibilities We See

Susan Manker-Seale

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/invocation/out-our-yearning>

We speak to the god, the goddess, the spirit of life, the eternal.

We speak to the mysterious thread that connects us one to the other and to the universe.

We speak to the deep wisdom at the center of our beings.

We embody the yearning of all people

to touch each other more deeply,

to hear each other more keenly,

to see each other's joys and sorrows as our own

and know that we are not alone,

unless we create solitude for ourselves;

and even then, community awaits us.

Out of our yearning we have come
to this religious community.

May we help each other to proclaim the possibilities we see,
to create the community we desire,
to worship what is worthy in our lives,
to teach the truth as we know it,
and to serve with justice in all the ways that we can,
to the end that our yearning is assuaged
and our lives fulfilled in one another.

Let us go, now, into the silence of the faith that is
unique to each of us, and still the same.

[Pause.]

May peace be yours. Amen.

A Prayer for the Possibility of Both-And

Lyn Cox

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/heart-both-and>

Spirit of Life, ever adapting and renewing, we come together this morning with yearnings that do not match: We yearn for stability, for even one moment of feeling like we know what is going on, for the ability to predict and prepare for what is coming next. Yet we also yearn for change. We ache for a world that turns aside from racism, violence, dehumanization, and disregard for suffering. We pray for a change in the illness, grief, isolation, incarceration, and vulnerability of our loved ones. We reach for connections that will remind us that we are worthy as we are, and we reach for connections that will help us to become our best selves.

Hold us in the heart of Both-And. Cradle us in the mystery [and possibilities of each.]

Cherish us in the eternal presence of love and encourage us on the path of growth and development. As individuals and as a people, help us to become who we are called to be. Lead us to open pathways to deeper wisdom through reconciliation, self-respect and mutual respect, compassion, owning and making amends for our mistakes.

Source of Wonder, move us to express and live in gratitude for the beauty of this world, the loving people in our lives, and this day of possibility. To this we add the meditations of our hearts, as we enter into a time of silence.

Outside/Inside (On the persistent possibility that the life and love within prevail.)

Laura Bogle

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/poetry/outside/inside>

Outside

The flags fly

Down the highway, hanging on to the back of large trucks or the chest of a man.

Outside

There is grabbing and taking

A staking and re-staking

Of territory claimed

The roads cut, the oil burned, blockades erected, and walls built

Outside

The borders between us are made visible in noise, colors, ballots.

Signs and signals.

Inside resides

The breath of common ancestors

The child who plays with no thought of malice

The heart tuned toward suffering

The taste of figs ripening in the lingering autumn heat

The sliver of an orange moon low in the evening November sky.

Inside, begins something you might call a prayer

Let us kneel down.

Not to God or nation or ideology

But to what is inside. A feeling, a connection

A welling like the waters at the very beginning of time

Unpolluted and gently flowing.

Sweet and dark and healing.

Let us kneel down to the persistent possibility that the life and love within prevail.

Let us release what is inside outward in beauty, spilling towards each other, until all merges.

Unstoppable well of knowing that we will only ever be saved by one another.

The Possibility of Righting the Wrongs of Our Kin

Leslie Takahashi

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/right-wrongs-our-kin>

Spirit of Life, God of Love, hear this cry which begins with gratitude for the human ability to take action to right the wrongs of our kin.

If you are the force of Love, be loving to these dear ones who would rid the world of hatred and greed.

If you are the force of Possibility, seed opportunity for those who believe they are forgotten.

If you are a larger Freedom, break the chains of oppression and ignorance in which so many lives are bound.

If you are the power of healing, please, oh please, bring comfort to the little ones who are imprisoned away from their sources of comfort and care.

Whatever you are, any force of the "More" which allows us to reach beyond this reality to a more inclusive and loving presence, give energy to these precious ones who would make a difference. And may their actions inspire all of us to do whatever is in our power to make it known that we will not allow our neighbors to be treated as less than human.

Amen.

His Dream as a Possibility We Make Real.

In Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wayne B Arnason

Full prayer found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/to-embody-the-dream>

“...We gather in thanks for the life and ministry of Martin Luther King Jr.,
not because we wish to worship him as a saint,
but because we wish to embody his dream as a possibility we make real.
We gather with full knowledge of our shortcomings...
It is painful to acknowledge our shortcomings — yet we are here, Spirit of Life.
We are here: not always perfect, not always wise, not always just,
but wonderfully and mysteriously human and alive.
We dedicate this time together to renewing our hope...”

A Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer for the Poor People’s Campaign

Rev. Dr. Katharine R. Henderson, president of Auburn Seminary

Full prayer at <https://www.bpfna.org/mlk/2018/01/18/a-rev-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-litany-for-the-poor-peoples-campaign.3010274>

Today, we remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, whose prophetic journey continues to mark our days,
inspire our hearts and guide our feet.
In this moment of celebration let us not move too quickly but allow our attention to focus on a world that is still
sin-sick and falls so short of the mark of love and justice.
Before we move on, allow our hearts to be broken open with the sorrow and pain of...

Readings

To the New Year

W. S. Merwin

Full poem found at <https://merwinconservancy.org/2018/01/to-the-new-year-by-ws-merwin/>

With what stillness at last
you appear in the valley
your first sunlight reaching down...
where we have come with our age...
and our hopes such as they are
invisible before us
untouched and still possible

God Says Yes To Me

Kaylin Haught

Full poem found at <https://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/126.html>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eh1Sq5sxdP0>

I asked God if it was okay to be melodramatic
and she said yes
I asked her if it was okay to be short
and she said it sure is...
Sweetcakes God said...
what I'm telling you is
Yes Yes Yes

V'ahavta

Aurora Levins Morales

Full poem here: <http://www.auroralevinsmorales.com/main-blog/vahavta>

Say these words when you lie down and when you rise up,
when you go out and when you return....
Inscribe them on your doorposts,
embroider them on your garments,
tattoo them on your shoulders:
Another world is possible...

...imagine winning. This is your sacred task.
This is your power. Imagine
every detail of winning, the exact smell of the summer streets
in which no one has been shot, the muscles you have never
unclenched from worry, gone soft as newborn skin,...

Defend this world in which we win as if it were your child.
It is your child.
Defend it as if it were your lover.
It is your lover...

Songs for the People (and the possible waiting to be born)

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper - abolitionist, writer, speaker, unitarian

Full poem at <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/songs-people>

...Our world, so worn and weary,
Needs music, pure and strong,
To hush the jangle and discords
Of sorrow, pain, and wrong.

Music to soothe all its sorrow,
Till war and crime shall cease...

For A New Beginning

John O'Donahue

Full poem found at <https://soulbridging.com/new-beginning-john-odonahue/>

In out of the way places of the heart
Where your thoughts never think to wander
This beginning has been quietly forming
Waiting until you were ready to emerge...

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the grey promises that sameness whispered
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled...

A Brave And Startling Truth

Maya Angelou

Full poem found at <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/a-brave-and-startling-truth/>

Read by Angelou: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjEfq7wLm7M>

...When we come to it
When the curtain falls on the minstrel show of hate...
When battlefields and coliseum
No longer rake our unique and particular sons and daughters...
Then we will confess... that we are the possible
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world...

Song of the Universe

Manish K. Mishra-Marzetti

Full reading found at <http://www.uuberks.org/circle-group/song-universe>

Listen carefully. . . Can you still hear the song? The one sung for you when you were born. The song sung by a cosmos in motion rejoicing at your life...

Listen carefully. . . Can you hear it still? A song of possibility...

Possibilities can be hard to pursue. Roads not taken, wrong turns, destinations that disappoint. Through this, the song persists. The universe sings no less because time and space wear us thin...

Turning to One Another

Margaret Wheatley

Full poem found at: <https://101friends.wordpress.com/2013/10/31/margaret-wheatley-turning-to-one-another/>

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

Ask: "What's possible?" not "What's wrong?" Keep asking.

Notice what you care about.

Assume that many others share your dreams...

Die Slowly (Life lies in pursuing the possible)

Pablo Neruda

Full poem here: <http://eleternoretorno.blogspot.com/2005/06/pablo-neruda-die-slowly.html>

Video Meditation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6V7t5VByuY&list=PL804FB1BDEFCDDBA2&index=14>

Spoken: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBYcDqZknzE>

He who becomes the slave of habit,
who follows the same routes every day,
who never changes pace,
who does not risk and change the color of his clothes,
who does not speak and does not experience,
dies slowly...

He or she who does not turn things topsy-turvy,
who is unhappy at work,
who does not risk certainty for uncertainty,
to thus follow a dream,
those who do not forego sound advice at least once in their lives,
die slowly...

Let's try and avoid death in small doses,
reminding oneself that being alive requires an effort far greater than the simple fact of breathing..."

Music

Soul Matters Music Resources

Check out these five sources of support for music:

1. **Monthly Small Group Packet**: Our small group packets also contain music recommendations on the theme. These are intended for personal devotion and inspiration not community worship, but often the list does contain songs that can be used for worship services.
2. **UUMN (UU Musicians Network) Online Database**: The wonderful leadership of the UUMN have added our monthly themes to the UUMN music database. This provides a centralized place for Soul Matters musicians to post and share music ideas with each other. You also get to tap into the suggestions from other UU musicians from around the country. You can access the UUMN Music Database [here](#). More detail is provided on the "[music resources](#)" page in the members-only section of our Soul Matters website.
3. **Soul Matters Music Support Facebook Page**: This support page is for on-going sharing among Soul Matters musicians. Click [here](#) to go to the Facebook page.
4. **Soul Matters Worship Support Facebook Page**: This support page is for on-going sharing among worship leaders and teams. It is also a great source of music support. Click [here](#) to visit the page.
5. **Soul Matters Spotify Playlists**: We create a [Spotify](#) playlist for each month that includes a number of songs on the monthly theme. This is intended to provide inspiration for our small group participants but might be useful to musicians. Click [here](#) for links to the Spotify playlists for each month.

Suggestions

from Soul Matters Music Resources Coordinator,
[Sara Brandt-Doelle](#)

Hymns -Easier to Lead & Sing

288 All Are Architects
1017 Building a New Way
1023 Building Bridges
126 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
112 Do You Hear
1019 Everything Possible
396 I know this Rose Will Open
338 I Seek the Spirit of a Child
149 Lift Every Voice and Sing
146 Soon the Day Will Arrive
157 Step by Step the Longest March
169 We Shall Overcome
166 Years Are Coming

Hymns -More Difficult to Lead & Sing

304 A Fierce Unrest

351 A Long, Long Way the Sea-Winds Blow

289 Creative Love, our Thanks We Give

1029 Love Knocks and Waits for Us to Hear

145 As Tranquil Streams

Recommended Choral or Vocal Pieces

A Portal of Hope: Joan Szymko - <https://www.jwpepper.com/A-Portal-of-Hope/10559292.item#.W8nfYGhKi00>

All of Life is Calling Me: Joyce Poley

Amazing Things : Jana Stanfield Megon McDonough - <http://www.megonmegon.com/music-licensing.html>

Better Way: Ben Harper

None of Us are Free

A Fable: Niel Ginsberg - <https://www.jwpepper.com/A-Fable/10340125.item#/submit>

To Sit and Dream: rosephanye powell- <http://rosephanyepowell.com/compositions/secular-multicultural-compositions/>

Road not Taken: Randall Thompson - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qu6zWM6Y_N8

Let the River Run: Carly Simon - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hhg1U09kKo>

Choose to Bless the World: Nick Page - <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/blessing/choose-bless-world>

New Beginnings: Jim Papoulis - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VG9qiaCPgGk>

If You Wanna Sing Out: Cat Stevens

Sermon Seeds

Angles, Ideas & Twists To Get Your Sermon Started!

Don't forget to explore the small group packet for additional sermon seeds. It contains quotes and poems to enhance your sermon, as well as numerous sermon angles in the questions and the spiritual exercises.

The Low Road

Marge Piercy

Full poem found at <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/issues/502/the-low-road>

A must read for the theme of the power and possibility of groups and movements...

...It goes on one at a time,
it starts when you care
to act, it starts when you do
it again after they said no,
it starts when you say We
and know who you mean, and each
day you mean one more.

The Chair Men

Robert Fulghum

Full story found at <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/call/workshop9/chair-men>

"...So. They are eating a chair... For all the goofiness of the project, these young men are learning patience and perseverance. Some things cannot be had except on a little-at-a-time, keep-the-long-goal-in-mind, stay-focused basis. Love and friendship are like that. Marriage and parenthood, too. And peace and justice and social change. As wonderfully silly as it seems, eating a chair may lead my young college friends to wisdom and nobler aspirations. In their foolishness lies the seed of What-Might-Be, little by little"

Quote

Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander, from The Art of Possibility

Our premise is that many of the circumstances that seem to block us in our daily lives may only appear to do so based on a framework of assumptions we carry with us. Draw a different frame around the same set of circumstances and new pathways come into view.

How Vision & Definition Unleash Possibilities - a story

Shared by Rev. Joanna Fontaine Crawford;

From: On the Verge: A Journey Into the Apostolic Future of the Church

The Zenith Drilling Company prided itself on being the best drill-bit-producing company in the world. In many ways, they had revolutionized the industry, using tungsten-tipped drill bits. The problem is, the competition caught up with them and began to erode Zenith's market share to the point where profitability was in question. The board of directors decided to get a new CEO who could perhaps help the company recover its previously held market-leader status.

The new CEO called all the leaders and managers to a three-day crisis conference, where he asked everyone to clarify what they thought the mission of the company was. After much conversation and deliberation, they

decided that their mission was not only to make drill bits but also to make the best drill bits in the world. They all agreed this was an excellent purpose for the company.

At this point, the new chief executive said, “No! Your job is not to make the best drill bits in the world; rather it is to make the best holes in the world!” They went on to innovate laser drilling and become the best hole-making company in the world.

Quote

Jean Paul

Whoever believes in the good in people, draws forth the good in people.

Quote

Viktor Frankl

When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.

Quote

[*Maria Popova*](#)

Nothing keeps us from changing more than our tendency — our willingness — to remain locked... into personae and identities barred in by heavy leaden rods of self-righteousness.

One Hundred and Eighty Degrees

Federico Moramarco

Full poem found at <https://www.ayearofbeinghere.com/2014/12/federico-moramarco-one-hundred-and.html>

Have you considered the possibility
that everything you believe is wrong,
not merely off a bit, but totally wrong...
How different the world seems then:
everyone who was your enemy is your friend,
everything you hated, you now love...

The Parable of “Maybe”

On hope, humility, acceptance and never being able to control the possibilities...

Story: <http://www.awakin.org/read/view.php?tid=1011>

Spoken - Alan Watts, with reflection: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byQrdnq7_H0

Modern retelling: <https://vimeo.com/215111799>

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRfw3iklJok&index=2&list=RDKrdlYftMn94>

To Pray Without Apology

Imagining the Possibility of MLK as a UU

Rosemary Bray McNatt

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/why-martin-luther-king-jr.-wasnt-uu>

What would have happened if Martin Luther King Jr. had cast his lot with the Unitarian Universalists?

Today, like every other day,
we wake up empty and frightened.
Don't open the door to the study and begin reading.
Take down a musical instrument.
Let the beauty we love be what we do.
There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.
Jelaluddin Rumi

Quote

[Rev. Kathleen C. Rolenz](#)

One of the cherished beliefs we hold dear, that we have inherited from our Transcendentalist forebears is that of diversity, or religious pluralism. Emerson embraced diversity not as a political platform, not something to put on a bumper sticker, but as a fundamental truth about creation. "The charm of life is this variety of genius, Emerson notes, " these contrasts and flavors by which Heaven has modulated the identify of truth." Or, as Richardson wrote of Emerson's thinking, "the world is as full as possible of the greatest variety of things the world is the better the more different things it contains all are needed by each one; nothing is fair or good alone."

The danger of a single story - TED Talk

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg&t=18s>

The Possibilities Created by Non-Violence (A possible angle for MLK Sunday)

The Other Cheek by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes

<https://www.unfoldinglight.net/reflections/2302?rq=possibility>

High Hopes ("oops there goes another rubber tree plant")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOOTF8vu6ps>

Book: The Impossible Will Take a Little While: Perseverance and Hope in Troubled Times

Paul Rogat Loeb

<https://www.amazon.com/Impossible-Will-Take-Little-While/dp/0465031730>

Book: The Art of Possibility: Transforming Professional and Personal Life

Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander

https://www.amazon.com/Art-Possibility-Transforming-Professional-Personal/dp/0142001104/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1538834867&sr=8-1&keywords=the+art+of+possibility+by+benjamin+zander

Related TED talk: https://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_zander_on_music_and_passion

Related interview with Diane Rehm: <http://wamu.org/programs/dr/01/03/29.php>

Book: The Tipping Point (How possibilities become realities)

Malcom Gladwell

<https://www.amazon.com/Tipping-Point-Little-Things-Difference/dp/0316346624>

Article: What is Evil?

Rev. Patrick O'Neil

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/stub-56531>

“Radical fundamentalism casts human existence as an epic, ongoing, still-undecided battle between the forces of good and evil, of the divine versus the demonic... **But we stand willing to testify for a religious approach grounded in human possibility rather than pathology.** Our starting place is the exaltation of the human spirit, rather than its denigration...”

The Concept of “Possibility” in Process Theology

Dr. Demian Wheeler, Philosophical and Religious Studies Professor at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

- The principle of process: everything in existence is in process (becoming is more fundamental than being).
- Reality is not made up of unchanging substances, but of events, happenings, quanta of energy, occasions of experience.
- Whitehead’s method was to analyze a single moment of human experience and then to extrapolate from that analysis a set of ultimate metaphysical principles that are exemplified in every single instance of reality.
- All occasions of experience exhibit four basic phases:
 - Felt inheritance from the past (i.e. “prehension”)—an actual entity literally “feels” the past world as the object of its experience.
 - **The introduction (by God) of the possibility of novelty.** God “creates” through the introduction of relevant possibilities for novelty. God is the eternal storehouse of all possibilities through which God introduces novelty into the world. God’s initial aim is always at the optimal realization of value given the situation. God saves/transforms the world by preserving whatever value has been actualized in the world.
 - Decision—an occasion of experience decides what it will become.
 - All entities, from the subatomic to the human, have the power to “decide” among alternative possibilities; all entities are at least partially self-creative.
 - Actual entities shaped but not determined by past influences.
 - This means that freedom lies at the very heart of reality.
 - Once the occasion of experience has attained completion (i.e. “satisfaction”) and perishes, it becomes a part of the past world that subsequent entities will feel/prehend (i.e. “objectification”).
- In short, reality is an endless process of becoming and perishing, of actual entities taking the past into themselves, freely creating themselves out of that past, and becoming the past out of which future entities will arise

Process Thought resources on the Web

- Book: A Christian Natural Theology by John Cobb
- The Center for Process Studies: <http://www.ctr4process.org>
- Process and Faith: <http://processandfaith.org>
- What is Process Thought? <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL11FD38F7DAAA259B>
- Homebrewed Christianity: <https://homebrewedchristianity.com/> and more specifically podcasts about process theology <https://homebrewedchristianity.com/?s=process+theology>
- Pando Populus: <https://pandopopulus.com/>
- Process Century Press: <http://processcenturypress.com/>

Recommended Sermons

How to Curate Human Potential

Rev. Anthony D. Makar

<http://www.uuca.org/how-to-curate-human-potential/>

The No that Makes Possible Each Yes

Rev. Victoria Safford

Text: <https://whitebearunitarian.org/the-no-that-makes-possible-each-yes-10-04-15-sermon/>

Should We Keep Hope Alive

Rev. Amanda Poppei

Rethinking the possibility of hope and opening to the power and possibility of lament

<https://soundcloud.com/ethicalsociety/should-we-keep-hope-alive-amanda-poppei>

Change

Rev. Gail Geisenhainer

Found at <http://uuua.org/index.php/worship/on-sunday/sermons-forums-2/sermon-audio-and-text> (Scroll down to the sermon, found at date: 08/16/15)

A sermon celebrating the possibility found in a “wider we.”

Endless Emergence

Lena Gardner, Executive Director of BLUU

Audio <http://firstuniversalistchurch.org/sermon/endless-emergence/#description-tab>

Never Forget – a Theology of Forgiveness

On the Possibility of Forgiveness

Rev. Audette Fulbright

<http://www.uucheyenne.org/multimedia-archive/never-forget-a-theology-of-forgiveness/>

Think it Possible That You May Be Mistaken

Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd

Audio: <https://rruuc.libsyn.com/think-it-possible-that-you-may-be-mistaken>

The Possibility of The Radical MLK

Rev. Emily Wright-Magoon

<http://www.uumidland.org/blog/2017/01/15/the-radical-mlk/>

The Risk in Possibilities

Revs. Abhi Janamanchi and David A Miller

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zhf6DWq5qxo>

An Annual Giving Campaign sermon:

“At your church, is your involvement a contribution or total commitment? Is it about maintaining the status quo or looking into what is possible? Is it about being comfortable where you are or taking a risk into the unknown?... A religion of risk, of possibilities; this is who we are...”

Closing Words

An ending, or merely prelude to more glorious beginnings?

Michael A Schuler

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/5407.shtml>

We have reached the end of this time
For the gathering of memory
And for letting the imagination play with future possibilities.
We have enjoyed magic moments and edified each other.
Shall it be concluded, then?

Or will this adventure, now commenced, continue?—
Our separate paths converging, meeting, merging
In the unending quest for love more perfect,
The joyous struggle for meaning more sufficient and life more abundant.

Is this ending to be an ending,
Or merely prelude to new, more glorious beginnings?
I pose the question;
In your hearts lies the answer.

Blessed is the Path

Eric Williams

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/benediction/blessed-path>

Blessed is the path on which you travel.
Blessed is the body that carries you upon it.
Blessed is your heart that has heard the call.
Blessed is your mind that discerns the way.
Blessed is the gift that you will receive by going.
Truly blessed is the gift that you will become on the journey.
May you go forth in peace.

We Are Not Done

Rev. Audette Fulbright Fulson

Full reading found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/we-are-not-done>

Do not think we are finished—
oh no
we will never be finished
never just done
until the light of justice is lit behind every eye...

Opportunities For Support & Inspiration

Soul Matters Worship Leader Support Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

Soul Matters Ministers' Support Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/719788338192570/>

Attend one of our two monthly online ministers' brainstorming groups:

First Tuesdays and First Thursdays of each month at 1pm eastern

No pre-registration needed. Just sign in with this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5857099120>

Attend our monthly online musicians' brainstorming group:

Second Thursdays of each month at 1pm eastern

No pre-registration needed. Just sign in with this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5857099120>

Soul Matters Inspiration Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

Musical inspiration on our Soul Matters Spotify music playlists:

<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/spotify-lists.html>

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