Prarie Unitarian Universalist Society Sunday, November 24, 1991

Chalice lighting in honor of our ancestors

Childrens' discussion of contextual understandings and empathic actions

Statement of service theme by Lynnette Delgado: "Gandhism and Ecofeminism as Exemplars of the Evolution of Human Consciousness"

Group responsive reading

EACH IN HIS OWN TONGUE

A FIRE MIST and a planet—
A crystal and a cell,—
A jellyfish and a saurian,
And caves where the cave men dwell;
Then a sense of law and beauty,
And a face turned from the clod—
Some call it Evolution,
And others call it God.

A haze on the far horizon,
The infinite, tender sky,
The ripe, rich tint of the cornfields,
And the wild geese sailing high;
And all over upland and lowland
The charm of the goldenrod—
Some of us call it Autumn,
And others call it God.

Like tides on a crescent sea beach,
When the moon is new and thin,
Into our hearts high yearnings
Come welling and surging in—
Come from the mystic ocean,
Whose rim no foot has trod—
Some of us call it Longing,
And others call it God.

A picket frozen on duty,
A mother starved for her brood,
Socrates drinking the hemlock,
And Jesus on the rood;
And millions who, humble and nameless,
The straight, hard pathway plod—
Some call it Consecration,
And others call it God.

WILLIAM HERBERT CARRUTH

Film "Powers of Ten" (as metaphor for importance of multidimensional perspectives)

Reading of Gandhi quotes

Speaker's brief comments on Gandhi's spiritual/secular truth-seeking method

Guided group meditation, "Tree of Generations" from Starhawk's "Dreaming the Dark"

Reading of ecofeminist quotes

Speaker's overview of selected ecofeminist themes

Closing group responsive reading

Some academic sophisticates delight in reminding us that we are pathetically insignificant compared with the vast space and time of the cosmos. But there is a higher level of sophistication, a level in which we become aware that we exist in a space-time dimension that is excitingly unique. Our size is midway between the microcosm of the atom and the macrocosm of the galaxy. And midway between the rotation period of an atom's electron and the age of a galaxy is the time it takes to wink an eye.

Despite our relatively small size, we are uniquely equipped to be the universe's explorers—and worshipers. We are atoms that have time—lapsed into cells. We are sea creatures that have crawled ashore to walk on land and fly into space. We are stardust that has become self-conscious.

As we become conscious that matter and spirit, the sensual and sacred, and all religious inspirations are one, perhaps we will become aware that all humanity is one. And then, perhaps, we shall begin treating each other accordingly. Mark Davidson

Group questions and comments

Visitor introduction and welcome

Announcements