

Pre-Lenten Worship 2021

Creating Possibility: Learning to Live “As If”!

I can move from a “What if” ...this or that happens” approach to life to an “Even though” ...this or that happens for I Believe!



✧ Welcome and Community News

✧ Reading Ourselves for Worship

*Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!
Surely God is in this place,
Holy Ground!*

✧ Becoming Present to God and Each Other...Our Check-in:

How Are You As You Arrive...how is it with your spirit?

✧ Gathering as God's People

Pastor: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is God’s deepest desire, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” “Live as if there were no tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” (Paul and Mahatma Gandhi)

All: Sing like no one is listening. Love like you’ve never been hurt. Dance like nobody’s watching, and live like heaven is on earth. (Twain) Live like you “Believe.” Live “Even Though.” Live “As If” the new realm is here and now. Good News! It is!

✧ Gathering Music: I Believe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmtIZHEHPd4>

✧ Bible Wisdom Teachings

...listen, ponder, study, imagine, live as if...

Gospel of Thomas Saying #5

“Recognize what is right in front of your face, and what is hidden will be revealed to you. For, there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed.”

Gospel of Thomas Saying #22

“Jesus saw little children being nursed. He said to his followers: ‘These little children are like those who enter the realm.’ They said to him: ‘Will we enter the realm as little children?’ Jesus said to them: ‘When you make the two one, and when you make the inside like the outside, and the outside like the inside, and the above like the below. And you make the male and the female into a solitary one, so that the male is not male nor the female female. And when you make eyes in place of an eye, and one hand in place of a hand, and one foot in place of a foot, and one image in place of an image, then you will enter the realm.’”



Reflection

Jesus calls us to self-confidence knowing everything is within us...everything known.

Jesus calls us to move out of binary thinking away from categories and labels.

Jesus calls us to be One.

It's not so much what we say we believe, but how we “live” what we truly “believe”.

It's about living as if the realm were right before us. And, it is!

Living “As If” creates possibility changing the present and the future.

There is nowhere to run and nowhere to hide for wherever you go, there you are.

There is nothing to be afraid of except...fear itself. And, we know both fear and joy stream from an experience of awe. The choice to find joy or be in fear...is ours.

So, lean into the awe, the possibility of the moment. Live “As If.”

Keep your heart wide open.

Song:

“I Gonna’ Keep My Heart Wide Open Till My Faith Brings Me Back To Solid Ground”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5LJ1HGuzo>

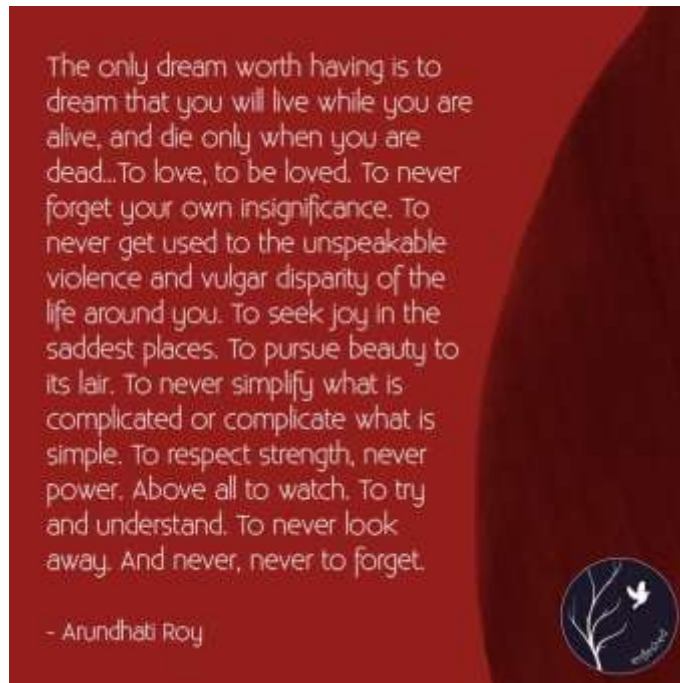
✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ ***Affirmation of Faith With Intention: A Poem “I Believe,” Adapted***

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining
And I believe in love even when there's no one there
I believe in God even when God seems silent

I believe through any trial, there is always a way
But sometimes in this suffering and hopeless despair
My heart cries for shelter, to know someone's there
But a voice rises within me, saying hold on my child,
I give you courage, I give you hope.

There be sunshine. There be happiness.
There be love. And, someday there be peace for all in our new realm.”



✧ ***An Invitation to Lent***

Turn toward what has possibility for your life: Watch what drops away as you do!

Remembering Our Baptisms

Sharing The Water.

Marked With Ashes...An Anointing

Remembering Whose We Are...marked with the meaning of life vulnerable yet eternal.



✧ *Sing Along With This Familiar & Special Music: We Are Holy, Holy, Holy*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3r-3TFB6wI>

✧ *Our Prayers and The Lord's Prayer*

✧ *Our Response*

May today there be peace within. May I trust God that I am exactly where I am meant to be. May I always remember the infinite possibilities that are born of doubt twinned with faith. May I use the gifts of love and life I have received, and pass on the love that has been given to me. May I be confident knowing I am a child of God. Let this settle into my bones, and allow my soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love...risk and reveal the Way!

✧ *Benediction...Becoming a Living Blessing*

What of this shared wisdom goes with you as helpful and life-giving?

✧ *Sung Response*

Holy One, now we your servants go in peace. Your word lives on in us.

Hear this service presented on Tippe Talk podcast, link on our website & Facebook.