

THE LIGHTHOUSE

December 2017

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Reflections on Tradition - by D. Joan Thomas

The end of the year is a gathering up of all the old bits and pieces, sorting out the special memories to keep, balancing the sorrows with the joys, counting our blessings, our narrow escapes, our days in the sun, and all the while we celebrate, in secular and spiritual ways, the coming of the light. This is one part of Tradition.

Tradition, like a cut and polished diamond, is a multi-faceted creature. As it turns and catches the light, so it is seen by some of us. Others of us see only the dark side. In between the light and the dark live all the other shades. All are equal and at any turn could be dark or light depending on the captured moment.

Tradition is sensory. It appeals to our mouths, our minds, our ears and eyes which in turn direct our imagination. Tradition is ritual, asking us to follow paths already laid and those that are yet to be imagined.

Tradition is transitory and yet indelible, it is ours to bend or break, to use, abuse or make new.

Tradition is one of the gifts of Christmas



The Lighthouse December 2017
A Newsletter for Friends of the Church

We are a spiritual community supporting each other in exploring our personal journeys regardless of spiritual path or belief. Our community is comprised of a rich field of individual and collective energies that is ever changing and evolving.

While we are accepting of diverse expressions of belief, we recognize the interconnectedness of all things and the power of love and appreciation. We hold reverence for all life.

We welcome those who wish to share their journey with us through their insights, reflections, experience and creative self-expression.

We are open to inspiration and recognize that our openness to others' ideas enhance our own awareness and expansion.

We meet our basic human need to socialize, bond, cooperate, celebrate and have fun, in a warm-hearted way, through a variety of events and activities.

We acknowledge our opportunity to be agents of change in the world and we encourage and support service to others through individual and group activity.

We share our sacred space with the larger community.

With gratitude, we live thoughtfully on the Earth with kindness and compassion for all.

We welcome you.

Church of Truth – Community of Conscious Living
Sunday Service – 11:00 am

Working for You
Your Board of Directors

President	Brian Martin	778-430-1872
Vice President	Troi Leonard	250-532-3442
Inside Maintenance	Lorna Rennie	250-361-2079
Secretary/Treasurer	Deborah Hawkey	250-813-1747
Outside Maintenance	Bill Israel	250-744-0590
SDC Liaison	Bill Israel	250-744-0590

Your Spiritual Directions Committee

Laurence Beal	250-380-6429
Jane Campbell	778-533-7678
Linda Chan	250-380-6383
Chris Porter	250-588-6722
Marilyn Smando	250-516-9687
D. Joan Thomas	250-721-4054

Rentals Esther Hart 250-896-5933

Newsletter dbhawkey@gmail.com Submissions due by the 21st.

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Faith in Action

December 3 Coordinator: Jane Warren Campbell
Moderator: Bob Winkenhower
Speaker: Marilyn Smando
Meditation: Laurence Beal
Greeter: Louisa

December 10 **Hope And A Pinprick Of Light Makes The Darkness Flee.**

Coordinator: D. Joan Thomas
Moderator: Lorna Rennie
Speaker: Rev. Joan Hopper
Meditation: Maria Escude
Greeter: Bob Winkenhower

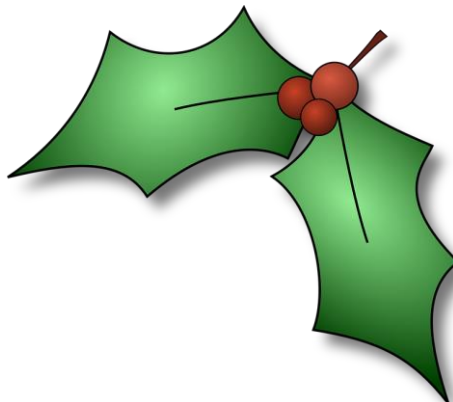
December 17 Coordinator: Marilyn Smando
Moderator: Frances Litman
Meditation : April Hambly
Speaker: Troi Lenard
Greeter : Joyanna Wilkinson

December 24 **Special Musical Christmas Service**

Come and enjoy music and songs focused on Peace and Love.
Details: TBA
Coordinated by Linda Chan and Louise Taylor

December 31 **Community Service - What are the RESOLUTIONS we seek?**

Coordinator: Laurence Beal
Moderator: Laurence Beal
Meditation: Music
Greeter: TBD



**Wednesday Meditation Circle
Church of Truth
111 Superior St.
Free or by donation
Everyone Welcome
7-8:30 p.m.**

Next Session January 3, 2018



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
We Celebrate with YOU!

Colin Lee December 26



Lower Heating Costs



In order to avoid another winter of higher than expected heating costs, The Board requests that members take responsibility for ensuring that the 4 Sanctuary doors are kept closed when the room is not in use. This will keep the heat in and not be heating the front and back areas of the church which are individually regulated by baseboard heaters. Thank you for your diligence.

Christmas Dinner

As has been our tradition, if someone wishes to organize a Christmas Day Dinner, the Board has approved the funds for purchasing a Turkey.



Submitted by Brian Martin, President

This story initially appeared in the Lighthouse Newsletter in October 2004 ...Marie Logan read this important message as part of her invocation when she was the Moderator at the Sunday Service on October 17th, 2017.

TELL THE PEOPLE THAT YOU CARE ABOUT THAT YOU CARE!

One day, a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. "Really?" she heard whispered. "I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!" and, "I didn't know others liked me so much" were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Viet Nam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature.

The church was packed with his friends. One by one, those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin. As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. She nodded: "Yes." Then he said "Mark talked about you a lot."

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher.

"We want to show you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed." We thought you might recognize it."

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew, without looking, that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

"Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it."

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home.

Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album."

"I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary."

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. "I carry this with me all times," Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: "I think we all saved our lists."

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forgot that life will end one day. And we don't know when that day will be. So please tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

Submitted by Marie Logan

When I Was the Forest

When I was the stream, when I was the
forest, when I was still the field,
when I was every hoof, foot,
fin and wing, when I
was the sky
itself,

no one ever asked me did I have a purpose, no one ever
wondered was there anything I might need,
for there was nothing

I could not
love.

It was when I left all we once were that
the agony began, the fear and questions came,
and I wept, I wept. And tears
I had never known
before.

So I returned to the river, I returned to
the mountains. I asked for their hand in marriage again,
I begged—I begged to wed every object
and creature,

and when they accepted,
God was ever present in my arms.
And He did not say,
“Where have you
been?”

For then I knew my soul—every soul—
has always held
Him.

—Meister Eckhart (1260 – 1328)

Submitted by Colin Lee

My name is April Hambly and I am a Reiki practitioner, here in Victoria, B.C. Reiki is the Japanese term for Universal Energy and I greatly enjoy helping others using this gentle, effective tradition. I find that the energetic comportment of people plays a defining role in their lives. Health, be it physical, mental or spiritual, and happiness are linked through the energies which we allow into our thoughts, beliefs and heart, ultimately determining our life experiences. Through being aware of our energy and setting our thoughts on a positive course, we can greatly influence the outcome of our daily life.

To encourage others to explore how they can participate in inner change, which always manifests in outer change, I share [A Reflection On Being](#), a work that was brought forth through my intuitive guidance. It has been my observation that one of the most successful ways to move with and create peaceful, tangible transformation is in simple Stillness, Meditation and Reflection. Being still allows us to remain calm in times of upheaval and facilitates a state of metamorphosis.

If we consider the classic example of the butterfly, we see that a period of stillness is required before change become evident. It is also this way with humans; through meditation and stillness of mind, great change can occur within us, leading us into new and beautiful experiences of Being and Living. I invite you now to listen to or read the words of [A Reflection on Being](#).

A Reflection On Being

Stillness;
It lives within Us.
It has a quiet voice
And a peaceful manner.

Amidst our busy days,
Our noisy cities,
Stillness dwells softly
Within Us.

And It speaks to Us
Asking Us to heed its call;
To be restful,
To be peaceful,
To just Be.

Our lives are sometimes
So overfilled, so demanding,
That We forget why We
Even came into this World.

When We are Still,
We allow Ourselves
To be reminded
Of our Birthright,
Which is Joy.

Joy is achieved through
Harmony.
Harmonious balance is an
Essential part of Living.
If You find that Balance
Infrequently presents itself,
Remember to be Still more
often.

Stillness will always
Usher You into a more
Joyful, Harmonious state.

Embrace Stillness at least
Once per day.
Do not neglect this
Powerful method of
Improving your Life experience.

In times of Stillness,
Wisdom's voice can be
Heard clearly,
Love's hand can be
Felt tenderly
And the Universe's
Profound Love for You
Can be detected within your
Heart.

Enrich your Self with the
Tremendous gifts Stillness
Offers.
You have but to reach out
And take them.

No special skill is required
To embrace the Peace
Which Stillness offers.
Peace, which naturally
Fills You, can easily
Be shared.

Allow your Self to make
This World a more beautiful
Place by sharing your
Inner Peace.

As we approach the
Traditional season of
Peace, Love and Joy,
Listen to the voice of Stillness.

Allow its beautiful qualities
To spill forth through You
Out into the World,
Creating moments of Truth
Where Every One touched by
You is all the better for it.

By providing an example of
Inner Harmony, You help to
Heal this World by giving
It more of what it needs
And wants, which is
Love, Itself.

Only Love Can Change
Everything
That needs changing.

The Path to a more Loving
World
Is achieved through Stillness.
Through Peace
And through Joy.
Through You
And through Me.

Let Us spend time in the very
worthy pursuit
Of Stillness
And Together
We can All Change this World.

Amen

I thank You for allowing Me to share this Reflection on the value and power of Stillness of Mind.

ODE TO THE TREES OF FALL

Let me praise the trees that colour fall:
the hawthorn, laden with red berries,
mingling with bushes of snowberry and willow
to hide the secret lives of farm houses;
the lines of Lombardy poplar, golden sentences
punctuating the distant horizons of brown and green.
the Japanese maples, two lines of vivid red
along a favourite street, a reminder
of Celtic Samhain and its ancient fires,
a fire avenue to the land of the ancestors.
and, most of all, the Canadian maples,
who now let through their branches and yellow
leaves the sun's light, reflected from a lake.
In this season, let me praise the trees,
and all of us who, as our leaves fall,
allow the light to shine through our branches.

Submitted by Chris Bullock, SDC

From **December 1-14th** we are collecting canned food & other non-perishable items for the James Bay Community Project. Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated.



When you take charge of your spirituality you take charge of your life.

I've looked for alternatives in traditional churches that would free up, within me, Timeless Aliveness, known as Soul or Source Energy. When I was twenty-two, I witnessed Spiritual Energy exit from my husband's navel as he died, and sucked back in with a powerful audible hissing sound, when he regained consciousness. There is no doubt he was full of this intelligent energy. And so am I.

I. That is why doctrine and dogma do not resonate with me.

I've wanted to express and explore freedom of Spirit for a long time. I have feelings of tenderness when I realize each person is filled with the *same* guidance within.

Why spiritual freedom? This question offers people the power to look deeper and come up with their own answers. There is great mastery and strength when you take charge of your life. Others in your community witness your spiritual freedom and become inspired.

Please contact Marvelous or Linda Chan, we will video your personal experience or you can send in a blog, or your own video to: www.marveloustrudeau.com

Submitted by Marvelous Trudeau

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Marvelous Trudeau wrote two books relating to Spirit, Spirit Knows and I Always Loved Jesus but the Church Stole Him From Me.

Poetry Submission by Jennifer Hastie

Autumn, you are beautiful clothed in your lovely gown of yellow, orange and red with a carpet swirling around you of matching brilliance.

But Autumn, you are dying, your beauty fleeting.

Autumn, winter is on your heels, ever present with its cold, dark, icy tentacles engulfing all who are in the autumn of their lives.

Death, you have come.

One day spring will come again.

Sun will bring warmth. Life will burst with love, joy, blue sky and endless hues of reds, blues, yellows.

And so I too will be reborn in another form, another life, another chance, again and again.

