



“Oh, summer has clothed the earth in a cloak from the loom of the sun.”

From *In Summer* by Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

Unfortunately, we are unable to meet at Barrow Castle this month, because of access problems with many people away.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday 16 July

I will hold a “Chalice Vigil” at 11.15 on 25 June with music and prayer. Feel free to do that too if you wish.

There is a Solstice Live Stream from Stonehenge 20/21 June. For details go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqQ5gR13vY4>

Poem of the Month

Hope

Hope is a sea birds eyes, cold and lost
Hope is a heartbroken love
High in the heavens above
Hope is the snow and the frost hiding love and loss
Hope is a small green bud lifting the soil
Hopefully with a plan like that it won't foil
Hope is dark grey skies
clearing before your eyes
Hope is clean crisp air on a spring morn
Hopefully you will cherish it till dawn
There is hope within

Even when the leaves fall to the ground
beauty can still be found
Even when the warmth goes to sleep
Hope is something you can always keep
There is hope within

When people think all hope is lost remember
All cold hearts will defrost
And a spark of magic hides
When the cold and damp seeps in
Hope lights a fire inside
So remember when the sorrowed bird sings
There is hope within

Iris Jubb (11)

Iris's beautiful poem won a place in the top three in the Bath Schools Poetry Competition

Spiritual but not Religious

7pm / 21 June 2023 / Online

This event is organised by the [Unitarian Transformers](#) project.

This month Rev. Mark Hutchinson is in conversation with Interfaith Minister and leader of Kendal Unitarian Chapel, Amanda Reynolds. Be prepared for stories of weaving and coffee and spiritual but not religious community. All welcome.

[Zoom Link](#). Meeting ID: 942 2364 8779. Passcode: 3c9Pb1.

Reflection

Does Truth matter?

Before we all grab whatever handy household object we use as a soap box and clamber onto it to shout “Of course it does!” let’s pause to consider.

According to the philosophers there are a number of definitions of Truth. Perhaps one of the most straightforward is that it is a reality that relies on a proven fact. We can all attest to the fact that wherever we are in the world (except at the Poles) the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. Such a universal truth is probably one of the earliest we learn and illustrates that when something we believe corresponds with known facts, it is true.

Not all truth is as absolute as that. What if there are different, competing “facts”? It is well known that witnesses in court present varying accounts of the same event. They have all sworn to tell the truth, but how they remember what happened is unique to them.

“The man was short – the man was tall;

He had long hair – no, he was bald:

Ah yes! I remember it well.”

The courts accept this as a normal mental process that happens to all of us, and look for objective facts, such as forensic evidence, to support a case (or not). Even then, forensic evidence may not be completely accurate. What matters here is that the search for truth, as an end to any inquiry, should be coherent. That is, the elements of evidence do not actually contradict each other but add up to a consistent whole. So is *ultimate* truth an ideal goal to which we aspire but is always just out of reach?

To the theologian God is Truth, and therefore the search for Truth is the search for God. The reality that is the world is God’s creation. Truth is the self-expression of God, and therefore a moral imperative. But how are we mere mortals to discover the Truth that is God?

In a denomination such as ours, where we do not have a traditional priesthood telling us what we should believe about God, Truth must have multiple meanings. We find – as far as we can – our own truth, and speak it to others, and listen to theirs. We continue searching. Prayer can enable us to listen to “God”, meditation can link us to the universal web of life, reading can provide new ideas from the wisdom of others, shared worship can move our minds and hearts in new or enhanced directions. This is what past generations of Unitarians have referred to as the search for Truth, not so that we may discover all there is to know, as fact, about God, and then spell it out to others, but so that we may learn what we can, humbly admitting that it is only partial.

Still, partial or not, truth matters. It matters that we acknowledge our own truths. It matters that we are honest in relationships. It matters that we look at reality as clearly as we can. And it matters that we are true to ourselves, because living a lie is one of the worst things we can ever do to ourselves.

Kay

National Windrush Day on 22 June 2023

will mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the passengers of the Empire Windrush to the UK. The day celebrates the contribution and achievements of the Windrush generation and their descendants

A Celtic Prayer

Dear Lord,
Give me a few friends
who will love me for what I am,
and keep ever burning
before my vagrant steps
the kindly light of hope...
And though I come not within sight
of the castle of my dreams,
teach me to be thankful for life,
and for time's olden memories
that are good and sweet.
And may the evening's twilight
find me gentle still.



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