

Imagine That!

April 10, 2022 Conscious Conversation



A Beloved Community
Practicing the Possible Through Prayer

Rev. Diana Johnson, with Lucinda Alton, RScP & Chris Johnson, RScP.

The following is the outline Rev. Diana prepared to guide the Conscious Conversation. You may view the video with subtitles on our YouTube Channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKHQkXXdy17s2Ubpe3b46sw>.

Opening Music

 **Welcome to the Mystic Heart**

 **One Big Family**

Chant: Behold! I Make All Things New

Lucinda - Invocation

Performance Music – Must Be Present to Win

Rev. Diana Welcome & Global Connection

Good morning, my name is Rev. Diana Johnson, and I want to welcome you home...to our spiritual Community, and to your heart's Deep Wisdom, your own Mystic Heart. Thank you for joining us this morning in Conscious Conversation.

...an opportunity for deep listening, both within and without

...for sharing from our authentic selves and our deepest Wisdom

...for remembering that our words are powerful and make an impact on the Whole...we are connected.

So let's begin by making a Conscious Connection with our Global Community, gently allowing the eyes to close if you are comfortable doing so, and taking a couple of deep breaths...letting go of everything that led to this moment...being fully present...

Envision with me a great web that encircles the earth, each of us a point of Light in the web...extending our awareness of the Light that shines in all living things, and in that which we would call non-living...humans, creatures of every type, plants, rocks, soil and water, stars and planets...one Light...one Intelligence, flowing through all of it...through each one of us now, offering Its Wisdom to our time together this morning. As we experience our oneness with All That Is...We're ready for Conscious Conversation.

Have you ever had an idea, a really good idea, that you let get by?

Did it show up somewhere else, through someone else?

Would anybody like to share briefly what it was?

How did that happen? It was *my* idea. How did **she** get a hold of it?

Elizabeth Gilbert tells a story of *the book that got away*. Basically, she had an idea for a book, which she proposed to her publisher. The idea was accepted, and she worked on it for quite a while. Then things went crazy in her life, and she put it aside. After two years, she attempted to pick it up again but, although her notes were all intact, she could not seem to get back into the book. So she let it go.

A year later, after meeting and befriending another author, she discovered that her new friend was *writing her book*. The storyline was very specific, so she knew it was her book. Here's how it went:

It was about a middle-aged spinster from Minnesota who's been quietly in love with her married boss for many years. He gets involved in a harebrained business scheme down in the Amazon jungle. A bunch of money and a person go missing, and my character gets sent down there to solve things, at which point her quiet life is completely turned into chaos. Also, it's a love story.

This was the exact description that both women used for their books. Where Elizabeth had set the idea aside, her friend Ann had picked it up, with no knowledge about Elizabeth's idea. How does this happen?

What is an idea?



...from Latin, a *form* or *pattern*



...modern – a *thought, suggestion, concept, or mental impression*.

Is an idea the same as an inspiration?

Inspiration...what does that mean?



...from Latin, *breath of Spirit*



...modern definition, *to fill with the urge or ability to do or feel something creative*

So if Elizabeth's story was the breath of Spirit, uniquely hers, how did it end up with her friend, Ann?

Multiple Discovery – The concept of multiple discovery (also known as **simultaneous invention**) is the hypothesis that most scientific discoveries and inventions are made independently and more or less simultaneously by multiple scientists and inventors.

What examples of Multiple Discovery can we think of?

It appears that Multiple Discovery does not only happen in science.

Stephen Covey tells us that “all things are created twice.” First, we use our imagination--the ability to envision in your mind what you cannot at present see with your eyes. There is a mental creation, then a physical creation. It cannot be otherwise.

But what leads us to imagine anything?

We've circled back to *inspiration*. Inspiration is a thought form -perhaps an expression of the Divine...released into the Oneness that we are. Who knows how? Who knows why? Maybe as part of the evolution of the cosmos...Those who are open to the inspiration, receive it. This could shed a more spiritual Light on the concept of Multiple Discovery.

Elizabeth Gilbert calls it, “inspiration hedging its bets, fiddling with the dials, working two channels at the same time.”

She says that Inspiration is allowed to do that. It is the work of ***the Divine***, after all. This is part of the mystery...part of the Big Magic that we call God or Universe or Great Spirit or Creative Ultimate.

It doesn't matter what we call it...It is the All-Mind cleverly taking form as everything we see.

And modern physics is telling us that all of it is alive, down to the smallest bit of matter-energy, which we call a photon.

We may never understand ***how*** it works or ***why*** it works. We're not meant to. We just need to know ***that it works***.

This is where **faith** comes in. Let's talk about **faith**.

The Rabbi Jesus tells us in the book of Matthew:

Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

That's a pretty big claim.

What we are not told is that the Aramaic word for faith that is ascribed to Jesus in this passage...*pistis*...is more closely related to knowing, or embodiment. He was not referring to a mustard seed *believing* it could grow into a tree. He was saying that it was the *nature* of the mustard seed to become a tree...there was no room for doubt to enter the picture. There was no other possibility. When we have *that* kind of faith, mountains will move.

Ernest Holmes was a Spiritual Philosopher and synthesizer of Truth. He wrote that...

Faith has been recognized as a power throughout the ages – whether it be faith in God, faith in one’s fellowmen, in oneself, or in what one is doing. The idea that faith has only to do with our religious experience is a mistake. Faith is a faculty of the mind that finds its highest expression in the religious attitude, but always the man who has faith in his own ability accomplishes far more than the one who has no confidence in himself. Those who have great faith, have great power.

How many people in this room feel that they have great faith?

What if I told you that we all have exactly the same amount of faith?

What if I told you that the difference is in what we have faith in?

Do we have faith in **Murphy’s Law**, if anything can go wrong it will?

Or do we have faith in “All is unfolding for the highest and best, always.”

Will we have a different experience of life if we have faith in one over the other?

Last week we talked about fear, about making friends with our fear and learning to travel together without resistance.

Again, from Ernest Holmes...

What is fear? Nothing more or less than the negative use of faith...faith misplaced; a belief in two powers instead of One; a belief that there can be a Power – opposed to God – whose influence and ability may bring us evil.

...in other words, this Power would bring us something that was working against our Highest Good...was not moving us forward in consciousness...not evolving us.

What will you choose, fear or faith?

It is a choice...to consciously place your thoughts where you wish them to be...

Do we have old habits, old patterns of thought to overcome, to willingly let go of? Of course, we do. All of us do.

So what is required to consciously place our faith where we want it to be?

Focus...attention...

There is the story of the monk...you may have heard it. He asks the Master, what is the way to enlightenment? The master thinks a moment and responds, “Attention.” The monk says, “I know that is the first step, but what is the *true* secret? What comes after that?” After a long pause, the master says, “Attention. The first step is attention, the second step is attention, the 100th step is attention.”

This is the meaning of ‘mindfulness.’ The mind is always full...but is it full of what we want it to be full of?

10:30 So *attention* is key...what about *intention*?

How are ‘attention’ and ‘intention’ different?

Attention is what we focus on...what we allow to dominate our thoughts.

Intention is a creative expression of consciousness focused on some aim, goal, or purpose. Intentions aim the self at some future possibility.

So we concentrate our *attention as intention*.

You could say that *intention* is “the willingness to hold thought centered until form appears.” (Ernest Holmes)

Is having intention enough to see an idea come into form in our lives? What else does it take? No, it also takes action, but intention does not involve doing. Action comes later.

So let’s tie this all together. **What is the big idea that we can take away from this morning?**

In the Grand Scheme that we call Life, evolution is occurring. Things are changing, technology is advancing, social constructs and ways of being on the planet are shifting...human beings are gaining understanding and deepening their relationships to the Whole.

As part of this process, new thoughts form, or ideas come into being. They are part of the logical and necessary evolution of the Cosmos. They are circulated within this vast Oneness that we are all a part of, the Infinite Intelligence, the Mind of God.

It’s sort of like we are swimming in an ocean of thought forms or ideas. Because each of us is an individualized expression of God...with a unique set of skills, interests and abilities, beliefs and perceptions, there are some among us who are open and drawn to each new idea that is circulating.

Each one who is open, receives an inspiration.

One who gives attention to this inspiration may set an intention to see it come into form.

One who stays with that intention long enough for it to move into action, is the one who will bring this idea into manifestation.

And one who consciously places their faith in the Mysterious Power and Process of Life...in the perfection of the Universe and all of Its workings...in the Goodness that is unfolding in every moment...and in our ability to consciously influence or co-create our experience in the world, will find an even greater level of success.

Rev. Diana – Contemplation

I would like to close with a passage from the book *The Sacred Yes* by Rev. Deborah Johnson. This is part of what God has to say to her one morning as she listens in prayer. I invite you to close your eyes, if you are comfortable doing so, and listen as if these words were spoken directly to you by your personal form of God. Let's take a moment to feel that Presence...let it fill you, surround you, hold you. (Read page 45-47.)

Chris – Meditation

Inspiration... Imagination... Faith... the Divine Ingredients for Creation and Evolution... Inspiration is the Divine Omniscience being revealed *to us* by flowing *through us*... But Spirit can never force entry into our consciousness... Rabbi Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock..." *We* must open the door from the *inside*...

Once we have accepted the Inspiration that desires to be born through us, we allow it access to our Imagination... With our cooperation, Inspiration and Imagination then conspire to create something new... something we have never before experienced... And, like an expectant mother, we simply nurture it and allow it to gestate...

At this stage in the Creative or Evolutionary process, our job is not to interfere with the sacred process underway within us... and this takes Faith... Faith that God knows better than we do what needs to happen... and what needs *not* to happen... Faith allows us to surrender, making ourself fully available for the miracle now coming through us...

As children we learned how to grow our Imagination... by playing with it... by letting it take us away for a while... But how do we expand our Inspiration? ... our Faith? ... In the very same way... We invite and expect greater Inspiration... Then we let it play with our Imagination... And our resulting creations grow our Faith...

And then we start the process anew... this time with more Inspiration... a more agile Imagination... a greater Faith... And we begin to trust this Creativity, this Evolution that is happening by means of us... By our willingness to allow Spirit to guide us... to use our hands and heart... to employ our Imagination and Faith, we take our rightful place in Creation... Something is wishing to be born through us now... What is it? ... What is mine to do today? ... Let us listen for the answers in the Sacred Silence...

Silence – 3:00

As the music gently ushers our awareness back into the here and now, we are grateful for this time of sweet Communion with Spirit and with one another... Filled with Inspiration and Joy, we accept our role as co-creators of our world... Thank you God for everyone and everything...

I invite you to know with me now that Spirit is moving powerfully through each of us, and through our Beloved Community... Individually and collectively, we are a powerful spiritual influence on our world... As we evolve in consciousness, the benefits of our growth ripple out, blessing the entire world...

As Rev. Diana reminds us, one thing we *can* create together is a Love-Soaked World... As we visualize heaven right here on earth, I invite you to Imagine That!...

Rev. Diana – Envisioning A Love-Soaked World

Letting go of all we think we know, and stepping into our Highest Potential, we envision and create “a world that works for all, with nothing and no one left out.” (Buckminster Fuller)

Open your heart and mind to feel and know the unfolding of a world where all beings are peaceful, loving, abundant, and free...where people everywhere practice loving kindness and care for one another and for our planet.

We envision a world where all needs are met...where all beings have plenty of nourishing food, the safety of a warm and comfortable home, medical care, education, healthy relationships, right livelihood, creative contribution, and a sense of belonging...

A world in which every being is valued for its inherent Goodness and Light...where the Peace we cultivate within shows up as a world free of violence. Together we feel and know a world without greed, where there is abundance and contentment in simply having *enough*...

Where every being, as a precious creation of God, is deserving of all the blessings life has to offer and receives those blessings openly and gratefully.

With humanity serving as God’s hands, feet, hearts, and voices, ***there is no reason we cannot have such a world.*** With nothing and no one in its way, we know that our Vision is taking form here and now, as we speak our Powerful Word. And so it is! Amen!

Music – *Let it Be Easy*, written by Diana Johnson

Rev. Diana – Offertory

Now is the time for Gracious giving. There is a cycle of giving and receiving always at work. Our desire this morning is to give you a gift...food for thought...something delectable to chew on as you begin to create a new way of thinking, seeing, and being, leading you to a new experience. In order to complete the cycle, we gratefully receive your gifts.

If you are online with us today...

We also have a Gracious Giving Program...

Blessing for the Offering

As I awaken to the God within me and all around me, I see Abundance everywhere I look. I consciously step into that flow of Abundance by this act of giving. I offer this gift freely, in the spirit of Love... blessing and sending it forth to heal and prosper. It is evidence of my deep faith. It does good work in the world and blesses all of Creation. I give from a consciousness of Abundance! And so it is! Amen!

Offertory Music: *Thank You, God*, written by Eddie Watkins, Jr.

Lucinda & Rev. Diana – Blessing for the Offering

Rev. Diana

So here is my invitation for this week:

Spend some time in contemplation and deep listening...are there ideas that are meant for you?

Is there an inspiration calling for your attention?

If there is, set an intention to see it through.

Consciously place your faith in the process, in the All-Goodness of God, in the All-Power that is yours to use...

And know that as you place your faith in what your inspired heart most deeply desires, it move gracefully and easily into form...in the world...in your life. Let's anchor this in with prayer.


Rev. Diana – Closing Prayer


Lucinda – Invitations

 **Tuesdays, 3-5 pm – Michael Bordeaux's Book Club. *Made for Goodness*** by Desmond and Mpho (Imm-Foe) Tutu.

 **Thursdays, 12 - 2 pm Book Club and Meditation Circle - *Heart Minded: How to Hold Yourself and Others in Love***. Drop-ins are welcome.

 **Thursdays, 3-5 pm – *Metaphysical Bible*** led by Prayer Practitioner Chris Johnson. Drop-ins are welcome.

 ***Behold! I Make All Things New!*** Please invite friends and family to attend our special Easter Service on April 17th, followed by Brunch in Suite H.

 ***Miraculous Spiral: A Conscious Conversation*** ...Join Mystic Heart in welcoming Anton Mizerak and Laura Berryhill as guest speakers and musicians, offering our service on **Sunday, April 24th, 10:00 – 11:30 am.**

Mark your calendars now...

Remember...there are still a few spaces for our ***Be the Change...Spring Retreat at Coram Ranch in Shasta Lake*** – May 12-14th with culminating Retreat Experience on Sunday, May 15th here. If you have paid your deposit, payment in full is due by May 1. Check the website or contact Rev. Diana for more information.

Invitation to fill out information cards

Invitation for prayer support

Closing Music:

A Soul's Blessing, written by Chris Johnson

Love Be With You, written by Lainey Bernstein, RScP & Gary Lynn Floyd