

A Diamond in the Rough

May 22, 2022



A Beloved Community
Practicing the Possible Through Prayer

Rev. Diana Johnson, with 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKHQkXXdy17s2Ubpe3b46sw) at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKHQkXXdy17s2Ubpe3b46sw>.

Call to Awareness – Three Bells

Chris – Opening Prayer

Rev. Diana & Chris – Opening Music:

 **Welcome to the Mystic Heart**, written by Rev. Diana & Chris Johnson

 **One Big Family**, written by Robin Hackett & Gary Lynn Floyd

Meditative Music: *All That I Am*, written by JD Martin & Bobby Mason

Global Connection/Meditation – Diana

Chant: *The Garden*, written by Eddie Watkins, Jr.

Rev. Diana

I would like to begin this morning by inviting you to ask yourself a question.

Who am I? What is your mind's first response to that question? Who am I?

Do the answers you are hearing reflect the True Self or the false self, the authentic inner being...the Divine Self...or the ego, mental self-image?

Which self do we spend most of our time engaging with and expressing?

Which self does the world encourage us to engage with and express?

As we move through life, we are creating a story...we are living a story. Each one of our stories is a quest...Joseph Campbell would call it a Hero's Journey.

What is our story about? What are we looking for?

(Purpose...meaning...belonging...love...creative expression...)

Father Richard Rohr says:

Conservatives look for absolute Truth; liberals look for something real and authentic. Spouses look for a marriage that will last 'till death do us part'. Believers look for a God that never fails them; scientists look for a universal theory. They are all on the same

quest. We are all looking for an immortal diamond: something utterly reliable, something loyal and true, something we can always depend on, something unforgettable and shining.

What is that ‘immortal diamond’ that we are looking for?

(Our True Self...our authentic self...our God self.)

I have a story from the spiritual teacher *Gangaji* that I would like to share.

Read *The Diamond in Your Pocket*, pages 15-16.

What is the message of this story?

(What we are looking for is not outside of us. What we are seeking is already within us. What we are looking for is the path to expressing our True Self.)

Teachers throughout the ages have known this and tried to lead us inward.

In the 2nd letter of John, it says, “There is a Truth that lives within us that will be with us forever.”

St. Augustine said it this way: “Late have I loved you, Beauty so very ancient and so ever new. Late have I loved you! You were *within*, but I was *without*.”

Doesn’t that sum it up? That which we are seeking is already within, but we spend most of our time focused on outer circumstances... stories... drama... our own personal story or drama...

Gangaji says: “Telling the personal story is the primary religion of most people on the planet.”

And as if own drama isn’t enough, we get involved in the drama that surrounds us.

We have lots of reasons why we think it is important to stay engaged in the drama...

What are some of those reasons?

We want to be responsible citizens... but are we responsible – able to respond – when we let our emotions drive us?

They need our help... but are we really helping, or are we trying to fix others, enabling others, interfering in the other’s inherent right to freedom?

In one of her daily conversations with the Divine, Rev. Deborah Johnson listened as Spirit spoke of our tendency to live from our ego or false self:

Read pages 80-81, #2, *The Sacred Yes*.

I am not suggesting that we all withdraw completely from the world. There is nothing wrong with staying apprised of world events. And there is nothing wrong with helping another **when invited**. It is *the way we engage* that is important.

I don't know about you, but I can be tempted to engage from my ego self, or false self. I can allow my thinking brain to take over...I try to figure things out logically. The problem is that my brain, as amazing as it is, has only one limited perspective from which to act.

Again, from Gangaji: "Whatever story you are telling about yourself, it is never the Truth of yourself; whoever you think you are, it is not the reality of who you are."

We tend to go to the wrong self for answers to our questions... to solve our problems. We forget to ask for guidance...what is mine to do?

Richard Rohr says, "...we invariably go to our ego..." but there are two selves, "...there is a self that has to be found and one that has to be let go of."

Then he asks us a question:

Read Immortal Diamond, pages 11-12.

So this is no surprise...your True Self has already announced itself to you. You **are** acquainted with it. And if you can allow yourself to set aside the story of not knowing, and get still for just a moment, somewhere deep inside, *you know that you know*. Otherwise, you would not be sitting here...you would not be drawn to a spiritual path at all.

I invite you to listen closely to the inspired words of Father Richard Rohr:

Read page 23, The Immortal Diamond.

So now, the soul's journey becomes about letting go of the part of the story that does not serve us and keeping or building a story that does.

Again from Richard Rohr, "Once your soul comes to its True Self, it can amazingly let go and be almost anything except selfish or separate...the soul is a natural at detachment and non-addiction. It does not cling or grasp."

This is why as we find ourselves growing in consciousness, suddenly our bodies may want to eat differently... we may no longer crave sweets or salt or carbs or whatever...

We may no longer find ourselves drawn to sensationalist news...

We may no longer choose entertainment that contains violence...

We may find ourselves less drawn to people and activities that drain our energy...

We begin to give our attention to what *we want to experience*, rather than what we *do not want to experience*, or to *what others are experiencing*...

Whatever it is for each of us...this is the awakening of the souls, our awakening to Wholeness and Oneness.

Once we get a taste of our Oneness, our Interdependence, we understand that what we do **to and for ourselves, we do to and for one another**. And that changes everything.

We naturally begin to align with the Truth of who we are...we live more of our precious life's moments from our True Self.

From Gangaji: read page 9, *The Diamond in Your Pocket*.

None of us has to create our True Self, or earn it, or work up to it by our actions in the world.

We do not climb up to our True Self...we fall into it. We surrender to who we know we have always been.

Our True Self knows that there is no place to go or to get to. We are already at home...already free...already living in a state of Grace. With every breath, it is our True Self that breathes God in and breathes God out.

The trick is to remember.

The trick is to remember to ask for Inner Guidance, for Inner Wisdom. It is always there.

In another conversation with Rev. Deborah Johnson, Spirit speaks these words: Read page 83 #5, *The Sacred yes*.

Chris – Meditation

Diamonds are considered the most valuable stone on Earth... They are beautiful... they are strong... they are the densest of all minerals... and yet they consist of pure carbon, like coal and graphite... What is the difference? ... Why does some carbon show up as a lump of coal and some of it as a beautiful diamond? ...

Diamonds are formed deep in the earth at very high temperatures and under extreme pressure... Over time, these conditions transform carbon into diamonds... Volcanic activity brings these gems near the earth's surface... Could it be that people treasure diamonds because of our similarities? ...

Through our habitual thoughts and feelings, we create the conditions of our life... Divine Law teaches us that those conditions exist to compel us to grow spiritually... to transform us... Sometimes we find ourselves under pressure... or "feeling the heat" in an uncomfortable situation... we are compelled to change...

What if that heat... that pressure... these conditions are inviting you to realize that you are a Diamond in the Rough? ... That your beauty and power are being called forth into the world? ... What if the Divine Diamond-Cutter is urging you to be shaped, polished, and refined into the precious gem that you truly are? ...

I invite you now to recall some high-pressure situation you were involved with in the past... some heated exchange... some intolerable condition that demanded change... How did it turn out? ... How did it make you stronger... more resilient... more beautiful? ... Now consider a current situation that may be generating heat or creating pressure on you... As we move into the Sacred Silence, consider from your Divine Diamond perspective, "How must I be transformed to shine forth my Radiant Splendor?" ...

Silence – 3:00

Allowing the music to guide our awareness back into the present moment, we are grateful for this time of Blessed Communion with one another and with Spirit... Thankful for the Grace that transforms us, we surrender into our next yet-to-be... 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 resumes her inspirational message this morning, we receive her words with open hearts and minds, as we envision a world in which Spirit's Radiant Light may shine forth brightly, even from a Diamond in the Rough...

Rev. Diana – A Love-Soaked World

We join together in consciously taking part in The Great Turning...a shift from the Industrial Growth Society we live into a life-sustaining civilization...the writing of a new story...we step into prayerful action as we envision and take part in creating a Love-Soaked World.

Together, we feel and know a world where all beings are peaceful, loving, abundant, and free...where all people practice loving kindness with one another and the earth. 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...

We create a world in which every being is valued for their inherent Goodness...where the Peace we cultivate within shows up as a world free of hatred and 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.

We are the ones who serve as God's hands, feet, hearts, and voices, and so ***there is no reason we cannot have such a world***. It is our Vision and our Action that make it so. With nothing and no one in our way, we are creating a more beautiful world, right here and right now as we speak our Powerful Word. And so it is...Amen.

Music: *I Wouldn't Be Surprised*, written by Doug LeBow & Gary Lynn Floyd, performed by Gary Lynn Floyd

Rev. Diana

With eyes still closed, let's take a few moments of Sacred Silence...a time for you to access your True Self...to simply stop the doing and be...

As I ring the bell...I invite you to follow the tone inward, into the Silence that lives within you. In that Silence, I invite you to feel, to experience, the Real You, your True Self.

Allow the physical sensation of Presence to permeate your being, filling every cell, every atom, and all the spaces in between with the brilliance that you are. At the end of our time, I will ring the bell three times to bring your awareness back into the room.

Bell –

Three Minutes –

Three Bells –

Let's take a moment to become fully present in the here and now.

I would like to open a space now for any sharing that may want to come forth.

Offertory/Affirmation

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 Video: *Prayers for Freedom*, written by Sarah Nutting, performed by MaMuse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-39vSLiWJdM>

Chris – Blessing for the Offering

Rev. Diana & Chris – Closing Songs

 ***A Soul's Blessing***, written by Chris Johnson

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