

Permission Granted!

May 1, 2022



A Beloved Community
Practicing the Possible Through Prayer

Rev. Diana Johnson, with Sherri Dotter, RScP, and Chris Johnson, RScP; featuring musicians Gary French & Dalton Fitzgerald.

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>. Call to Awareness – 3 Bells

Call to Awareness – Three Bells

Sherri – Invocation

Opening Music

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

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

Congregational Song: As A Man Thinketh, written by Jonas Magram

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. I'm so glad you're here with us this morning, whether here at the Gathering Place or online.

Let's begin by joining our voices in musical prayer.

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

Rev. Diana

Taking a moment to Connect with our Global Community, we gently allow the eyes to close...taking a couple of deep breaths, we let go of everything that has brought us to this moment...bringing ourselves fully present...

Sensing a great web of consciousness that encompasses the earth, each of us a point of Light in the web...feel that Light shining from the very core of your Being...extending our awareness to the Light that radiates from every living thing, and from that which we would call non-living...plants, rocks, soil and water, stars, and planets...one Light...one Intelligence, flowing through all of it...and through each one of us now, offering Its Wisdom to our time together this morning. As we experience our oneness with All That Is, grounded in the Truth of Who and Whose we are...and gradually returning our awareness to the room, and to our Community, we're ready for Conscious Conversation.

How many of us here like it when someone tells us what to do?

Perfect! You have everything you need to live a creative life. Isn't that good news?

Okay, maybe there's a little more to it. I have been using Elizabeth Gilbert's *Big Magic* as a jumping off point for our Conscious Conversations.

A couple of weeks ago, we talked about **making friends with our fear**...the fear that tends to get in our way whenever we set out to do anything new, big, or exciting.

Then we talked about **how ideas sometimes come**, and when we don't give them our intention and our attention...when we forget to consciously place our faith in our ability to succeed, our idea can leave us and show up in someone else's experience. Or maybe it's not that we forget to place our faith...maybe it's that we have a secret fear of our own success.

There is a well-known quote by Marianne Williamson that cannot be repeated too many times. I invite you, if you're comfortable doing so, to close your eyes and listen to her words of wisdom:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

How does that feel? Is there Truth in her words?

We are being called to step into our power, to "make manifest the glory of God that is within us," to have faith in our ability to succeed.

But how do we define success?

I was reading *Richer Living* by Ernest Holmes and Raymond Charles Barker. I'd like to share a few of their words:

Success does not mean the accumulation of wealth, the maintenance of position, nor a supremacy of power. Success means a life free from the burden of anxiety and liberated from the thralldom of fear. There is no successful life without peace or without that inner spiritual certainty which knows that the soul is on the pathway of good, forever expanding into the conscious union of God with man.

Repeat the quote.

So to complete the recap, we get an inspiration...

...we set an intention...

...we give it our attention...

...we consciously place our faith in our ability to succeed...

...we make friends with our fear, allowing it to share, but not direct, the journey...

Holmes and Barker finish today's reading by telling us that:

"There can be no obstruction to my success. Every path is open before me..." (Repeat)

Do we really believe that? Or do we put our faith in something else? What?

This morning, we are going to look at authenticity and originality and how they relate to the living of a creative life.

What does it mean to be original? (Congregation)

What does it mean to be authentic? (Congregation)

What's the difference? (Congregation)

My online dictionary gives the etymology of '**original**' as: (Latin) Origin - 'to rise.'

And our modern definition reflects that meaning: the point or place where something begins, arises, or is derived.

Authentic was defined as: (Latin and Greek) principal; genuine.

And our modern definition reflects that meaning: of undisputed origin; genuine.

So how do these words fit together? (Congregation)

Our originality is our point of inspiration...the Divine Spark coming through our individual personality.

Our authenticity might be seen as the process of our originality unfolding...

Elizabeth Gilbert learned to be an original, to live and authentic life, from her parents. I'd like to share her story.

Read pages 81-85 (pink tab)

What a gift...to grow up with an example of Creative Living.

Some of us didn't have that. Or maybe we got hung up on what was hard or what was wrong with our upbringing, rather than looking for the good stuff. I'm speaking from experience here...

But we have the chance to change our focus, to give our attention to the good that we grew up with...even now, we can re-write our stories. But that's another talk...

So how does the title of the talk relate to all of this?

So much of my life I have waited for permission to do things.

Has anyone else ever felt that way?

Who or what are we waiting for? (Congregation)

Aren't we entitled to express ourselves creatively? Entitled. Now there's a loaded word.

Does that word hold positive or negative energy for you, or is it neutral?

I hear entitlement used with and about the generations today. "They think they're entitled to whatever they want." Isn't there a negative energy around that?

But aren't we entitled to all the good the world has to offer?

Let's look at the dictionary definition for 'entitled.'

En – within... *Title* – inscription – (verb) to write or carve on something; (noun) the right or claim to ownership

Looking at this from a Spiritual perspective, we are entitled. We have a Divine Birthright... an inherent worthiness.

Ernest Holmes says that we can have "all the Good we can embody."

The Master, Jesus, tells us: "Fear not...for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."¹

The trick is that we have to be willing to *accept* it...we have to be willing to *embody* it. In the study of Christian Larson, the class is learning that "We do not get what we want, we get what we are." Breathe that in for a moment...we do not get what we *want*, we get what we *are*.

So the Absolute Truth of who we are is God in form...Spirit expressing Itself intentionally and perfectly in each and every one of us. Our Creativity is inspired by the Divine...every idea is a breath of Spirit. We are created in the image and likeness of Creativity Itself.

You want to be a creative person? You're in luck...you can't NOT be a creative person. This gives each of us Creative Entitlement.

So what gets in the way of our embodiment of our Divine Inheritance?
(Congregation)

Liz Gilbert has some ideas that I'd like to share, but I warn you...it's not very pleasant, and it might ring true. She says:

Read pp. 93-94

Ouch! Does that feel familiar to anyone? It may be a bit extreme, but I have to admit that I recognize it.

Shouldn't we be engaged in a more empowering conversation than that?

¹ Luke 12:32

You know, we have a very powerful tool at our beck and call...we already have it...we already use it...it is already a part of the conversations we engage in. We just need to use it more effectively for our good.

Any ideas about what that tool is? I AM

Liz Gilbert suggests that we claim who and what we are with I AM. And she is not the first to make this claim. It goes back into our ancient cultural wisdom traditions.

For Liz Gilbert, it is 'I AM a writer.'

For me, it is 'I AM a successful minister.'

I want you to notice something here...during this apparent process of becoming...while relative conditions are moving into being...I said, 'I AM a successful minister.' I did not say, 'Well, I started this church almost three years ago, and IF more people want to join our community...and IF I am able to help 100 people transform their lives, and IF my classes are well-attended, and IF I get good enough at doing talks, and IF I learn enough about church administration and IF I make enough money...then I might become a successful minister.

I said, "I AM a successful minister...right here...right now...Did you hear that, self-defeating subconscious mind? Did you hear that, Higher Self? Is everybody on the same page here?"

I AM a successful minister. It is that kind of conviction that brings our inspiration to fruition.

Do I struggle with that sometimes? You bet I do.

Do I have to work at it? Of course.

Do I have lots to learn? For the rest of my life.

But do I have the Power to bring it forth?

I have the Power of the One Divine Intelligence living Its Life through me, AS me. As long as I let THAT guide me and do the work, how can I miss?

I have a video that I would like to share...It's about five minutes long. Let's take a look. ***I Am Statements for a Good Day***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu2GDMq9N2Y>

How does that feel? (Does it feel authentic? If not, why not?)

Does anything come up that you want to share?

These are important and powerful tools. They can work for our benefit or our detriment.

According to modern mystic Neville Goddard, the I AM is "our awareness of our being." It can either imprison or free us. We are self-imprisoned or self-freed by I AM.

Chris – Meditation

Permission comes from the word *permit*... The Latin roots of *permit* mean *to release and send through*... but send through *what?* ... Consider *when* we ask permission... We are at a choice point... we are deciding how we want to proceed... We are at a threshold... Given permission, we cross the threshold into something new...

As children, we often needed to ask our parents' or our teachers' permission... There was always the chance they would say no... especially if they considered our idea dangerous or maybe just too weird... Those “nos” may still reverberate in our memories and may affect our ability to act on our current desires...

As adults, we essentially ask ourselves permission to cross the threshold... to embark on a new course of action... Often the first and loudest answer we hear is the echo from our past... our conditioned reaction... That is why it is so important to take our desire into meditation... In the Silence, the Voice of our Higher Self may respond...

On our spiritual journey, we may be called to make changes in our habits, our lifestyles, our activities... Our surface mind may say, “What would people think? ... Permission denied!”... That is when we have to look deeper within... to contact the *source* of the desire, and determine its benefit to our spiritual growth...

If our desire is true – if it is our Divine Intuition calling us into a higher expression of Spirit, contemplation will reveal that... And if not, we will know that as well... Paul teaches us to “be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”² If we wait for permission from outside ourselves, the “world” will never grant it... What have you *not* given yourself permission to express? ... Let us take that question into the Sacred Silence and listen attentively for the answers...

Silence – 3:00

Allowing the music to gently bring our awareness back into this time and this place, we center ourselves in gratitude... Grateful for this beautiful day... for this time of sweet communion with Spirit and with one another... for the loving guidance of our Higher Self... 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 shares more of her inspired wisdom, we receive it with open hearts and minds, hearing the voice of our own Soul lovingly telling us, “Permission granted!”

² Romans 12:2

Rev. Diana

To continue our Spiritual Practice this morning would like to invite each of us into a conversation with God.

The Master Jesus tells us, “Knock and the door shall be opened...seek and you shall find...ask and the answer is given.”³

If you're not already doing so, I invite you to close your eyes and once again relax into your chair, knowing that you are fully supported, from within and without, by the Life of Spirit...that your very breath is the Presence of God, bringing you to your Center...bringing you to your point of connection.

As we settle into the still point of being, we will begin a guided conversation...the sounding of the bell will move us from one question to the next...as our conversation is completed, I will bring you back with my voice as we move back into this space.

I know that every question holds an answer...I know that Divine Revelation is ready to speak...

Right here and now, exactly as I AM, what is it that I AM?

Bell

Grateful for Spirit's response, I simply notice how this feels. I ask another question: What is the Creative Inspiration that most wants to come through me now?

Bell

One final question...What is the first step I must take to allow this Divine Gift to come through me now?

I invite you to return your awareness to your breathing, to the sensations of your body, to the feeling of the atmosphere in the room...and when you feel ready, open your eyes, and return your awareness to the space around you...simply observing...regaining your focus in the here and now...and gradually returning your awareness to the group.

What are we waiting for? We don't need permission to be our most authentic and original selves. We are entitled to a direct experience...a direct inspiration...any time we are willing to ask. And we are permitted to express our unique gifts in any way that enriches and uplifts the Whole.

Permission Granted!

Rev. Diana – Closing Prayer/Love-Soaked World

Let's take a moment to anchor ourselves in prayer, to allow all that has been spoken to land. Feel free to silently hold my words as your own...

³ Matthew 7:7

There is one and only one thing going on here, and that is the One Source that I call God...expressing as all of creation. I AM That! I AM the Love of Spirit, the Infinite Potential of the Divine, the Peaceful Presence of the One Life. I AM all of it, right here, right now, and in every moment. I have only to consciously place my faith in this Truth, and to live consistently from that faith, and I AM made new...my life is transformed.

Letting go of all that holds me back, and stepping into my Highest Potential, I envision and help to create a Love-Soaked World.

As each one of us lives up to our full potential, we 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 new story, 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...

Living from our Highest Ideals, we create a world in which every being is valued for their 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 do whatever it takes...we know that our Vision is taking form here and now, as we speak our Powerful Word.

And so it is! Amen!

Music – *What A Wonderful World*, written by Bob Thiele & George David Weiss

Rev. Diana – Affirmation for the Offering

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: *Get Out of the Way*, written by Eddie Watkins, Jr.

Sherri – Blessing for the Offering

Sherri – Invitations

11:25 Closing Songs:

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

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

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