The Prophetic Voice

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Rev. Diana Johnson, IM, RScM, with Chris Netto, RScP,
Chris Johnson, RScP, & musician Marsh Brodeur

An Independent Interfaith Community
Practicing the Possible Through Prayer

Taizé

Call to Awareness – 3 Bells

Chris N – Opening Prayer

Rev. Diana – Good morning, and welcome. If you're new with us here this morning, my name is Rev. Diana Johnson, Pastor and Spiritual Director here at Mystic Heart. I invite you to settle in, bringing awareness to the breath, allowing it to ground you in this space and this time, as we begin our Taizé Meditation by joining our voices in musical prayer.

Chris J, Rev. Diana and Marsh – Taizé Chants

- ***Welcome Home to Your Mystic Heart***, written by Diana & Chris Johnson
- ***The Greater Good of All***, written by David Roth

Rev. Diana – I Am here for the Greater Good of All…to uplift those who cross my path…to leave the world just a little more Beautiful, a little more Peaceful than I found it…and so are you. I Am here to be Love in form…to give Spirit a vehicle for Its Infinite Compassion and Generosity…and so are you. What greater privilege could we ask for? What greater honor could be bestowed?

Settling more deeply into meditation, we take a moment to consciously connect with our Global Community, with our brothers and sisters of every form and expression. See with the mind's eye, a web of consciousness surrounding and infusing the planet…each of us, a radiant spark of Light…every human being, without exception…the two-legged and four-legged creatures…the swimmers, creepers, and flyers…the plants that give us sustenance and purify our air…the lifeforms below the soil, and the soil itself…the water that flows freely, giving us our very lives…all inextricably connected to and by the Great Mystery…beings of Radiant Light, the Spirit of Love.

As we feel and know our oneness with All That Is, we are acknowledging our responsibility to one another as human family, and as caretakers of this beautiful and life-giving planet. With every breath, and in every moment, we are sensing into the Truth of our Oneness, allowing all lines of separation to dissolve…we are leaving an imprint of Grace on all of Creation.

This month, we are sharing time in contemplation of the idea that ***There is Nothing New Under the Sun***. The Wisdom Keepers, Mystics and Sages throughout time have known this. Spiritual Principles have been at work since the dawn of time…Cause and Effect…Reaping and Sowing…thus has mankind lived from the beginning of its time on earth. And for just as long there have been those who attempted to point out those Truths…to warn us that Justice is always done in the long run. ***The Prophetic Voice*** has been with us in every culture and every time, speaking Truth to power…recognizing the ways that mankind is going astray…and trying to guide us in the ways that would lead back to sanity…to greater Freedom, Prosperity, and Contentment for all.

But alas, humankind was created with a strong sense of self-preservation…and the ability to make choices (for better or worse). Every human being is gifted with what we have come to call an ego…it is forever trying to keep us safe…often grounded in fear…and so it does not always see things clearly. Again, ***There is Nothing New Under the Sun***.

It is tempting to believe that we are living in the most disruptive and challenging times ever. But it would be closer to the truth to say that there have always been difficult times in human history. No matter the region, the culture, or the time frame, the human desire for power has led to violence and injustice throughout our history. The Early Muslim Conquests, starting in 622 C.E.; the Medieval Inquisition in 1184; The Mongol Conquests in 1200.

…the Spanish Inquisition; the Romans; the Portuguese; and Europe and the Americas still using force and violence in our own time.

Let's take a moment to breathe…letting go of world conditions…allowing them to be and knowing that what we are doing here together is helping to shift them in the direction of Peace, Justice and Harmonious Relationships. Bring awareness to the heart…feel the Love that is centered there…now feel that Love expand until it flows out to fill your entire body…then out from you to fill this room…and out into the world where it is let loose to do its Good Work.

Throughout history, there have been challenging times. And always, there has been ***The Prophetic Voice***…prophets seeking to warn the powers that be of impending doom.

We have examples in our Western Culture's history. Amos from the Hebrew Scriptures…remembering the symbolic meaning of *Lord* is *Law* or *Spiritual Principle*:

"This is what the Lord says: The people of Israel have sinned again and again, and I will not let them go unpunished! They sell honorable people for silver and poor people for a pair of sandals. They trample helpless people in the dust and shove the oppressed out of the way." (Amos 2:6-7)

From the book of Isaiah:

> Your leaders are rebels, the companions of thieves. All of them love bribes and demand payoffs, but they refuse to defend the cause of orphans or fight for the rights of widows." (Isaiah 1:23)

And from the book of Micah:

> I said, 'Listen, you leaders of Israel! You are supposed to know right from wrong…' and 'He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?' (Micah 3:1 and 6:8)

Moving into more recent times, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke these prophetic words:

> Men for years now have been talking about war and peace but now no longer can they just talk about it. It is no longer the choice between violence and nonviolence in this world, it's nonviolence or nonexistence.

And from Mahatma Gandhi:

> When the moth approaches its doom it whirls round faster and faster till it is burnt up. It is possible that India will not be able to escape this moth-like circling. It is my duty to try, till my last breath, to save India and through it the world from such a fate.

The Prophetic Voice is not meant to scare us…it is meant to wake us up… rather than deepening our despondency, it summons us to urgently adopt a new mind-set…to change our ways as individuals, communities and societies, so that a shift can occur in the course of events.

In our own time, Rev. David Alexander speaks with ***The Prophetic Voice***, warning that the role of religion in bringing Justice lies in defining, protecting and upholding societal structures of Justice…his prophecy turns a corner. His words are those of warning, but also of hope. He is creating a new framing story in which all beings are held in respect, and experiencing security, equity and prosperity.

Continuing the trend of the modern prophet, ***The Prophetic Voice*** of Charles Eisenstein sounds a hopeful and visionary tone…his is a prophecy of *The More Beautiful World We All Know is Possible*. He sees a real vision and is speaking it into existence. He bows into service, realizing that the vision has *chosen* him as its instrument. And he looks to community to confirm the vision. He says this: "When I witness kindness, generosity, healing, forgiveness, or courage, I know I'm not crazy. Such acts are the vision showing itself to me anew."

Chris J – Guided Meditation

The prophetic voice within compels us to speak out against injustice… whether it is interpersonal… organizational… or deeply embedded within societal structures… we are called to shine the light of Truth on all inequity… to expose all forms of oppression so that they *must* be seen… so that they *can* be healed…

But that same Divine Urge doesn't let us stop there… for we are still face to face with suffering… with injury to another human… or animal… or perhaps with the desecration of our Mother Earth… We can't just call it out, and then walk away… our hearts won't let us… our souls won't let us… *our God* won't let us…

Divine Compassion stirs within us… moving us into sacred action… Spirit guides us to help in any way we can… it may be a gift of food… it may be money… or it may be that all we have to give is understanding… a kind word… an embrace… As we surrender to the impulse to give of ourselves, the Unconditional Love of God flows through us…

In that moment we become an instrument of the Divine… we become the hands of Spirit… we *are* the Holy Comforter Yeshua spoke of… we are the gateway through which a little bit of heaven finds its way into the human world… and we begin to bring our vision of a Love-Soaked World into being…

The Prophetic Voice reveals injustice to us… God knows we don't like it… but the Universe won't respond to our desire *until we act on it*… it is our action – however small – that sets Creation into motion… In our three minutes of Sacred Silence this morning, I invite you to bring to mind an issue of social justice or oppression that you would like to see changed… How does it *feel*?... *Where* in your body do you feel it?... Ask Spirit to reveal to you an appropriate action you might take…

Silence – 3:00

Thank you, Spirit of Truth, for this time of deep communion with you and with these Beloved Souls… Thank you for placing your Divine Compassion within our hearts… and for stirring us into action… May we never forget that all creatures are our siblings… and may we always remember who and whose we are…

Long ago, Theodore Roosevelt said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are…" Later Arthur Ashe put it in chronological order… "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can…" We can't all do great things… but like Mother Theresa, we can "Do small things with great love…"

With open hearts and minds, we return to Rev. Diana's inspired meditation ready to be moved… ready to change… ready to become an instrument of Divine Justice… ready to hear – and share our own *Prophetic Voice*…

Rev. Diana – The ***Prophetic Voice*** is a True Voice when it is grounded in Divine Love and concern for the world…when the chosen instrument bows in Service to That Which Has Chosen them…speaks courageously to name corruption and oppression…displays moral imagination to articulate an alternative future…and demonstrates the willingness to live into and from the Vision in their own life, it is in alignment with Truth…it is acting to bring about Justice.

There are many such beings walking the planet today. I encourage you to find one that uplifts you and offers you hope. I close with the words of Charles Eisenstein. He says this:

A vision that one can speak into existence, live from and live into, need not be a blinding mystical experience or dream or psychedelic encounter. The future reaches into the present to beckon me, taking the form of all I witness. Many futures do that, asking which I shall choose…

In my meditation now I am mapping society's crisis of the word to the ways in which I too have fallen short of deploying its full power. By analogy, it must come from a way of seeing myself that is not true.

The mistaken ways I see myself (and that modern people are conditioned to see each other) are not simply the result of a wrong idea. The wrong idea—that anyone is less than fully and divinely human—is just one level of a multi-dimensional state of being, state of culture, state of trauma, and state of evolution.

In short, the ways I undercut myself, judge myself, and confuse genuine uncertainty with self-negating false doubt all scramble the inner communication required to speak a true vision into form.

I'm learning that to be who I am, unapologetic and unafraid, is crucial to being able to say, 'Here is what shall be.'

Let's close in prayer…

There is now, has always been and will forever be, One Life…Infinite…Intelligent…Creative…Loving…giving of Itself that we might have Life…that we might experience the Beauty and Joy of living a human life…that we might know the whole spectrum of experiences on planet earth…giving of Itself that we might grow into our next yet to be on the soul's journey…that we might find our Purpose and discover our Divine Nature. This One Mysterious Presence cannot be named, although we do…it cannot be understood, although we try…but It can be known. Its two aspects are Love and Law…in other words, Self-Givingness and Spiritual Principle. We might come to our own understanding of Spirit as we learn to relate with It, making It more personal to us. And we might come to know how it works as we observe our own reaping and sowing. Whatever words I might use, all I can know for certain is that It Is…I experience Its Presence in so many ways.

In this sacred moment, I feel so much gratitude for this life, for this place, and for the other beings who are sharing this Journey with me.

To each one, I say: "I see myself reflected in your eyes…in your love, beauty, generosity and kindness…and also in your less graceful moments. We truly are One in Spirit."

Knowing that our time together this morning has been prayer enough, I am filled to overflowing…and so, I can rest, trusting that all that is unfolding from this moment on is answered prayer. May I have the eyes to see and the ears to hear. Letting go, and letting God, I call it done. And so it is! Amen!

Musical Meditation

Altar of Love, by David Ault

Rev. Diana – Let's bask just a little bit longer in this prayerful space…(pause)…

And now returning our awareness to this moment, to our bodies…our senses…the atmosphere in the room…gently opening our eyes as it feels right and taking in whatever is before us. Look around at who is sharing in celebration this morning…your Spiritual Family…and honoring each one for sharing space with you this morning…honoring these beautiful souls who share their gift of music with us this morning…Thank you Anton and Laura.

Love Offering

As we prepare to close our Taizé Meditation, we offer the opportunity for you to share of your financial good in support of the work we do. Circulation is a Sacred Practice that supports your Mystic Heart.

It is by your generous gifts that we can continue the Good Work of supporting you and engaging in the greater Community.

If you're joining us online, at mysticheart.org you can use a Donate Button, a Venmo qr code, or our mailing address to make your contribution. We thank you in advance for your heartfelt generosity.

We are blessed to have time for a couple more songs…we'll pass our basket during *Thank You for Being in the World*…Gratitude seems like the right frame of mind for receiving your generous gifts.

Offertory Music Video:

- ***Micah 6:8***, by Monroe Crossing
- **https://youtu.be/7fHmVJ4wygk?list=RD7fHmVJ4wygk**

Rev. Diana – Blessing for the Offering

Chris J, Rev. Diana, and Marsh – Closing Song

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

Conscious Conversation

Chris N – Opening Prayer

Rev. Diana – Welcome or welcome back. If you're new with us here this morning, my name is Rev. Diana Johnson, and I am the Pastor and Spiritual Director here at Mystic Heart Spiritual Center. We are an Independent Interfaith Community that teaches Universal Principles and Practical Spirituality, tracing the common threads of Truth that run through all the world's great spiritual traditions. Our job is to point you inward, to the Wisdom that lives within your own Mystic Heart.

Are you ready to get this Conversation going with a little bit of music? Here we go.

Chris J, Rev. Diana and Marsh – Opening Music

- ***Welcome to the Mystic Heart***, written by Diana & Chris Johnson
- ***One Big Family***, written by Robin Hackett & Gary Lynn Floyd
- ***I Am As God Created Me***, written by Michael Stillwater

Rev. Diana – Each one of us has all that is required to stand strong on our own, but how much more powerful we are when we stand together…shine our Light as one, spread our Love as Community. And so we're going to take a few moments to collectively direct our Creative Energies toward a Powerful Vision…a Vision of the world we wish to live in. Visioning is a Powerful form of prayer that gives the Creative Power of the Universe a blueprint…it sets an intention for the creation of a ***Love-Soaked World***. Because if the world is ever going to change, it needs to start somewhere. Someone needs to *create* the Vision, needs to *speak to* the Vision, needs to *live into* the Vision. Why not us? So I invite you now to settle in…take a slow, deep breath, and consciously engage every bit of creative power at your command.

We envision ourselves now in a world of our creation…where all humans recognize, and are living from, their inherent Freedom…

…their deepest Wisdom and Generosity, and their most Loving nature…thoughtful of the impact their thoughts, words, and actions have on one another, the community, and the planet…a world without greed, where there is abundance in having enough…where nutritious food, clean water and air are readily available to all beings…where warm, comfortable, and affordable housing is a given…where all beings feel a sense of safety, belonging, and contribution…We affirm these many blessings with a Powerful *Yes!*

Ours is a world where leaders practice integrity and ethical behavior, leading by example and inspiring trust and engagement among the people…a world where policies and social systems support mental and physical health, education, and healthy relationships, and encourage ecological responsibility and sustainability.

Ours is a world where all beings work and play at whatever feeds their soul and are well compensated for their Service…where authenticity and vulnerability are not only welcomed but celebrated…where the Peace we cultivate within ourselves shows up as a world free of violence, hatred, or indifference…where freedom of thought and open, respectful conversation is modeled, supported and promoted.

Ours is a world where there is respect among people of all nations, and for the fundamental dignity of every human…where the Love that we are here to share is given freely to whomever our hearts are called to love…where we have moved beyond all lines of separation, and live as one human family, caring for one beautiful planet with the reverence she deserves. We affirm these many blessings with a Powerful *Yes!*

We recognize that transformation is an on-going process, and especially in times of great change, people benefit from working, playing, and simply being together.

And so this Community stands as an open and welcoming place for all who seek support, belonging, and a sense of Family. …it redefines *Church* as a place of Self-Discovery, Authenticity, Kindness, Radical Inclusion, and Unconditional Love. We affirm these many blessings with a Powerful *Yes!*

It is by the Power and Intelligence of the One Life moving through each one of *us* that this prayer is acted upon, answered even as it is spoken. As one by one, we commit to living *into* and *from* this Vision, it cannot be otherwise…we live in a Responsive Universe! Our Word carries Power. And so it is with deep faith, profound gratitude and great Joy that I release my Word to the One Who Gets It Done…And so it is!…Amen!

Bringing awareness back to the body, to the room, to this beautiful life, and to the Spiritual Family that is sharing this space with you this morning…There has been a shift in energy… We have just set a Powerful intention… Our prayer is rippling out into the race consciousness, doing its Good Work. And there's nothing that anyone can do about it…our loving act of defiance for this week. Doesn't it feel good?

Our theme this month is ***Nothing New Under the Sun***, and the topic of Conversation this morning has been ***The Prophetic Voice.*** If you were here for Taizé, this will be a bullet-point review, so that we can use it as our starting place for a Conscious Conversation.

We said that the Wisdom Keepers, Mystics and Sages throughout time have known that there is nothing new under the sun...that Spiritual Principles have been at work since the dawn of time…

What do I mean by Spiritual Principles?

(Cause and Effect…Reaping and Sowing…the Universe as responsive, reflecting back what we are)

And we said that for just as long there have been those who attempted to point out those Truths…to warn us that Justice is always done in the long run. (Many of them lost their lives for doing so.)…recognizing the ways that mankind is going astray and trying to guide us in the ways that would lead back to sanity. And for just as long, humans have been willful creatures.

We said that it is tempting to believe that we are living in the most disruptive and challenging times ever, but the truth is that there have always been difficult times in human history. We cited a long list of wars and inquisitions, and then had to take a breath and re-center. Taizé is a meditation after all.

There have always been challenging times and there has always been ***The Prophetic Voice***…prophets seeking to warn the powers that be of impending consequences. I read a couple of verses from Hebrew Scripture as examples. Moving into more recent times, we recalled the prophetic words of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi.

We said that the Prophetic Voice is not meant to scare us…it is meant to wake us up… to summons us to urgently adopt a new mind-set…to change our ways as individuals, communities and societies, so that a shift can occur in the course of events.

And then we reflected on a couple of current prophets and how their warnings have turned a corner, becoming not only warnings, but visions that offer us hope for the future. And that's where I want to jump in this week. Are you ready?

As you know if you were here last week, I'm reading *Freedom from Discord* by Rev. David Alexander. In this book, he is calling the New Thought movement to take a realistic look at its history and its purpose, and challenges the movement to step out of its current incarnation as a *Manifestation Movement* and into its next incarnation as a *Liberation Theology*. It's a fascinating book, and I view it as an accurate portrayal of what started out as a powerful women's movement. Today I'm going to talk a bit more about ***The Prophetic Voice*** and the part it plays in our lives today.

When I say *The Prophetic Voice*, what do you think I mean?

We talked in Taizé about some of the Hebrew Prophets. What was their purpose? What were they trying to do?

Do you think there are prophetic voices on the planet today?

From your perspective, who are they?

I'd like to share a short video made by one of the prophetic voices that has caught my attention. I've mentioned him before. His name is Charles Eisenstein. This video is about six years old. Then we'll have a Conversation.

Envisioning The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible by Charles Eisenstein

https://youtu.be/XrQGDHO1c6E

What is he saying? What's coming up for you right now?

Here's one more short video.

In which direction is the world headed? (start at 0:48 – 6:47)

https://youtu.be/6dQt0RagmEg?list=PLO7FHz7bAoR5l2_vYZvEJ1-ZpoySg0GcF&t=376

He asks some powerful questions. Do we serve life, or do we serve ourselves? We need to orient ourselves toward *What do we love? How do we care for it? And what are we devoted to?*

Let's take a moment to reflect and talk about those questions and the impact they have on our lives individually and collectively. Do we serve life, or do we serve ourselves? Which do we prioritize?

What do we love? How do we care for it? And what are we devoted to?

He goes on to say that the most important question is not can we survive. The real question is, who are we really? What world do we want to live in? What do I give to the world? And what do I create?

How or why are these questions important to the future?

These are the kinds of questions and conversations that The Prophetic Voice evokes…conversations that matter.

Without watching any more, I'd like to bring up a couple more questions that Charles Eisenstein asked in another couple of short videos. The first was called Hope – The Sanity Project 2026. He made this statement: "We contribute to our own hope or hopelessness by who we are being. If we are being the person who waits for someone else to do something, then we believe that this is human nature. And if this is human nature, there is no hope. If everyone waits for someone else to do something, there is no hope." Does that make sense? We become hopeful when we behave in ways that point to human nature as life-affirming, as Goodness. We are hopeful because *we* are doing something.

(from this video: *Hope – Sanity Project 2026* by Charles Eisenstein

https://youtu.be/UsQHb6Ul_ec)

What are your thoughts about that?

In another video, Eisenstein quotes Henry David Thoreau as saying: "It takes two to speak the Truth. One to speak, the other to hear." Then he makes the statement that "listening is a creative act."

(from this video: It Takes Two to Speak the Truth

https://youtu.be/A-OaOYkTH54

Do you view listening as a creative act? Say more…

Is there anything else that needs to be spoken right now?

What will you take with you to think about this week?

Last week we talked about Sacred Activism, that it asks us to bring more than just passion to the table…it asks us to bring Presence, Wisdom, Compassion, a Peaceful Heart, and I would say a voice and a willingness to act. Let's close with a powerful prayer by another Prophetic Voice, Dr. Zach Bush.

A Heartfelt Prayer for Humanity | Dr. Zach Bush

https://youtu.be/8we9GzUScUk

And so it is! Amen!

Proof of human evolution…Dr. Zach Bush's distant ancestors were related to George W. Bush's family. One went to the East Coast to become white collar, educated businesspeople, the other to become farmers in Tennessee.

Love Offering

Thank you so much for joining me here today. We're going to bring this part of the morning to a close, but before we do, we'd like to invite you to join in the celebration of the work we are doing in the world by sharing of your financial Good. If you are at home, you can go to **mysticheart.org** to use our Donate Button or to find our mailing address. We also have a Venmo qr code.

We are an independent, self-supporting organization, and your financial gifts are what make it possible for us to do our work and provide this beautiful and safe space to gather. We thank you in advance for your generous hearts and gifts. We acknowledge and give thanks for the Infinite Abundance of Spirit moving through you.

As we pass our basket this morning, we're going to go back in time. Please enjoy…

Offertory Music Video

- ***A Long Time Gone*** by Crosby, Stills, and Nash
- **https://youtu.be/ufuMffkf8VU?list=RDufuMffkf8VU**

Chris N – Blessing for the Offering

Chris N – Invitations

- **All regularly scheduled classes and groups are taking place this week.**
- **This Thursday from 2-5 pm, Rev. Diana will begin *Soul Vows*. All are welcome. The class is 10 weeks long. The suggested donation is $125 for the 10 weeks, or $15/class. Contact Rev. Diana for more information.**

Watch your email or get on the WhatsApp Group Chat for more information on new events coming up in the months ahead. If you're not on the WhatsApp group and want to be, please let Rev. Diana know.

The new bulletin will be sent via email this week and will be out next Sunday.

Information Cards

Prayer Requests: I am available after service for prayer, in our beautiful Prayer Room or fill out a prayer card and I will get your request to our Prayer Team for daily prayer.

Chris J, Rev. Diana and Marsh – Closing Song

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

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