



# *Soul Matters*

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## **Nurturing Beauty**



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## About Online Permissions, Multi-Platform Support & Referencing Resources

This is a year of transition and trying new things for all of us. As we cautiously shift back towards in-person worship, most of us will likely continue with some form of online worship, whether that be offering an online service simultaneously, posting the recordings of our in-person services online or some other hybrid innovation.

To support these various kinds of multi-platform worship, we are continuing our practice of researching material that is permissioned for online use. We will identify those online permissioned pieces with an asterisk and add “permission notes” to document and clarify the source of that permission. The use of the single asterisk indicates that that piece is permissioned for use in online service, including those recorded pieces posted on your social media outlets and webpages. If permission is more limited than that we will explicitly make a note about it.

*(Note: last year we used a one asterisk and two asterisks system to differentiate between use in unrecorded online services and recorded/posted services. Our experience is that this distinction is no longer relevant because virtually all writers are permissioning for both live and recorded/posted material. Thus our switch to only one asterisk. If we find that someone only allows non-recorded/posted permissions, we will explicitly note that in the permission comments.)*

**A Reminder About Partial Texts and “Pointing not Publishing”:** To honor legal and relational standards, we do not include the full pieces of authors’ works unless we’ve received explicit permission to do so. We want all subscribers to clearly understand that our worship packets are *research* packets not *publications*, which means we focus on “*pointing*” to where you can find fair use and publicly available pieces, rather than on “*publishing*” original writings and full resources. Our main service is theme-based *curation* and *research*, done in the service of saving professional’s time.

**A Note About Author Titles:** Many of the authors we refer to are ministers. Some ministers prefer to be credited with their title “Rev.”, others don’t, and still others are fine either way. Our practice is to follow whatever practice was used in the source material we reference.

# Calendar Connections

May 2022

*Click on the name of each event for more information or inspiration.*

## Interfaith:

- [Beltane](#) (Wiccan) - May 1 (more [here](#))
- [Ramadan](#) (Islam) - April 2 - May 2, 2022 (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Ascension Day](#) (Christian) - May 26, 2022 (more [here](#))
- [Eid al Fitr](#) (Islam) - May 2, 2022, at sunset (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Vesak](#) - Celebration of Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist) - celebrated on April 8, 2021 in [some countries](#) and on various rotating dates in May by [other countries](#). (more [here](#), [here](#), & [here](#))

## Unitarian Universalist:

- Anniversary of [William Ellery Channing's Baltimore Sermon](#), "[Unitarian Christianity](#)" - May 5th (1819)
- [UUA Founding Day](#) (1961) - May 12
- [Emerson's birthday](#) - May 25 (1803)
- American Unitarian Association founded May 25 (1825)

## National & Cultural:

- Jewish American Heritage Month
- Asian/ Pacific American Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- [May Day](#)/International Workers Day - May 1 (more [here](#))
- [Cinco de Mayo](#) - May 5
- [Mother's Day](#) (US & Canada) - May 8, 2022
- First HIV/AIDS death in North America - May 15 (1969)
- International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17
- [Brown v. Board of Education](#) - May 17 (1954)
- [Agender Pride Day](#) - May 19
- Birthday of [Malcolm X](#) (May 19, 1925)
- [Victoria Day](#) (Canada) May 23, 2022
- Harvey Milk, gay rights activist, born - May 22, 1930
- [Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day](#) - May 24
- Memorial Day (US) - May 30, 2022

## For Fun and On the Fringe:

- [World Press Freedom Day](#) - May 3
- [Star Wars Day](#) - May 4
- [World Laughter Day](#) - First Sunday in May
- Debut of "Rosie the Riveter" famous picture by Norman Rockwell, appears on the cover of Saturday Evening Post - May 29, 1943

# Chalice Lightings & Opening Words

## **Nurturing Beauty, Rev. Suzelle Lynch \***

[Permission secured by Soul Matters](#)

Our community is filled with beauty!  
When you open the door to greet me,  
that's where the beauty begins.  
When you share with me what's important to you,  
Beauty is there as I listen.  
When we join hands to practice compassion  
Beauty's heart blooms like a flower.  
When we teach or learn or work for justice  
Beauty abounding sparks joy in all.  
Let's light the chalice for beauty now –  
the beauty we seek,  
The beauty we share,  
the beauty we nurture together.

## **Earth and All, Rev. Dr. David Breeden \***

[Permission secured by Soul Matters](#)

We join together,  
bringing both our  
shadow and our light.

We join together,  
opening our minds  
and our hearts.

We join together,  
embracing,  
celebrating,  
sharing

the beauty of each,  
the beauty of self,  
the beauty of the earth,  
the beauty of all.

## **Wholeness, Sharon Wylie\_\***

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/wholeness>

[Permission Source](#)

Let us speak today of wholeness.  
You are welcome here, all of you  
Every part of you beautiful just the way you are...

## **The Golden Present, Rev. Marta I. Valentín**

Found in [A Long Time Blooming](#), pg. 23, UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" book.

### **The Beauty of the “Most Amazing Day”**

*From a poem by e.e. cummings*

Found here: <https://thepoetryplace.wordpress.com/2009/06/01/i-thank-you-god-for-most-this-amazing/>

Excerpt to use as opening words:

“I thank You God for most this amazing  
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky...  
now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened...”

### **We Are a People of Beauty, Kimberlee Anne Tomczak Carlson \***

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/we-are-people-beauty>

[Permission Source](#)

May we savor the beauty of our abundance and diversity, always cherishing one another and our earth...

### **The Beauty Woven Fine, Rev. Scott Tayler \***

[Permission secured by Soul Matters](#)

As we celebrate life’s beauty  
may we never forget that we are part of it.

It is woven around us,  
through us,  
between us.

We are here to notice those elegant strands -  
The way they call to us,  
The way they hold us,  
The way they connect us.

May our time together today  
enable that beauty to shine.

### **Let Beauty In, Rev. Rebekah Savage**

[Permission secured by Soul Matters](#)

Let beauty in.

Let beauty in like waves lapping on the shore, covering the beach with foamy glee and soaking the sand like an embrace.

Let beauty in.

Let beauty in like the first sunshine after a cloudy day, filling hearts and homes with a radiance that brings delight.

Let beauty in. Let beauty in like a wrapped gift from the Spirit of Life herself, as She offers to us:

“Behold, what creation can do. Behold, this is love made real that you can touch, taste and smell all around you.”

May all that is pleasing and exquisite be nurtured here in our time of worship.

May the magnificent pull towards all that is divinely pleasing hold us close.

May the sacred pulse within this space as we welcome in Beauty.

# Meditations, Prayers & Blessings

## **Beauty is Our Birthright \***

*Rev. Rebekah Savage*

[Permission secured by Soul Matters](#)

Sometimes we awake in the morning with a heaviness in our chest.

Sometimes we awake in the morning with the endless to-do list rattling through our thoughts, the nagging reminders of what was left undone yesterday, and the pangs of “I have to do it all again today?” pinching at our insides.

Sometimes we awake in the morning, and we’d rather go back to sleep,  
We would rather escape under the covers, a rock, the bottom of the closet.

And then,

The first sliver of sunshine may dance across our face. Beautiful.

And then,

The wafting scent of a new day may glide over us. Beautiful.

And then,

Signs of life blossom around us, to include inside of us. Beautiful.

Beauty is our birthright. Just as we are born in love, through love, To love.

## **Prayer of Co-Creation \***

*Rev. Lyn Cox*

Also found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/prayer-co-creation>

[Permission secured by Soul Matters](#)

Creative spirit, source of life and love:

We give thanks for the beauty of this day and for the company of those assembled here.

Thank you for the breezes of change, clearing our heads and bringing fresh ideas. May they cleanse our minds of the oppressions and isms that divide us.

Thank you for the flame of hope, the heat of righteous anger, the warmth of compassion, and the fire of commitment. May they bubble the cauldrons of transformation.

Thank you for oceans of love, rivers of connection, tears of relief, and pools of serenity. May healing waters flow over us and through us and among us, wearing down the sharp rocks of despair to bring joy in the morning.

Thank you for the good earth beneath us, around us, and within us. May we take this clay and co-create a new realm of justice and beauty.

Thank you for all these and more. We accept our gifts and commit to building, sculpting, painting, singing, and dancing them to life; to abundant life.

So be it. Blessed be. Amen.

## **One Talent**

*[Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes](#)*

Sunrise and its gold,  
a single kiss,  
the sea that never tires  
throwing its beauty at you,  
trees scattering jewels,  
stars saying their prayers  
by candlelight  
in their little houses—  
such loveliness,  
such precious coins.  
You can't say what they're worth,  
there is no measuring them  
any more than the one you are,  
little star among millions,  
generous, infinite Talent  
unburied,  
mere single radiant  
sun.

## **Gardening Prayer \***

*Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon*

Full piece at

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/164ANhPYECPEqFC8lj8S57T4eAXUqY2dgZWm9TJarKF0/edit?usp=sharing>  
Permission secured by Soul Matters

Oh, spirit of soil and sunlight,  
Endless energy of growth,  
...help us to grow all the good things of our lives,  
God, we see around us many examples  
of abundant beauty;  
We do not know if we could create such beauty on our own,  
but we don't need to, no, we partner  
With you, with the wind and the rain...



# Music

## Soul Matters Music Resources

In addition to the suggestions below, be sure to tap into our other sources of support for music leaders:

- 1. Monthly online musicians' brainstorming group:** We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm eastern time. To join the call, use this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5857099120>. No pre-registration necessary. Just come as you are able.
- 2. Soul Matters Music Support Facebook Page:** This support page is for on-going sharing among Soul Matters musicians. Click [here](#) to go to the Facebook page.
- 4. NEW! An additional Resource Guide** containing suggestions for public domain sources, free music sources, sheet music purchase sites, etc. This is a living doc and will be updated monthly. Any additional helpful suggestions/resources can be submitted to: [Soul Matters Music](#)
- 5. Recordings of all of our monthly music brainstorming calls** are available [here](#).
- 6. Soul Matters Music Playlists:** We create two different playlists each month: one in Spotify and another in YouTube. This is intended to provide inspiration for our small group participants but might be useful to musicians. Click [here](#) for links to the Spotify playlists for each month. Click [here](#) to check out the YouTube playlists.
- 7. AUUMM (Association for UU Musicians Ministries) Online Database:** The wonderful leadership of the AUUMM have added our monthly themes to the AUUMM music database. It's a great way to get music suggestions from UUs all around the country. Access the AUUMM Music Database [here](#).

## Suggestions For May 2022 - Nurturing Beauty

from Soul Matters Music Resources Coordinator, [Molly J. Webster](#)

### Hymns: Singing the Living Tradition - permissioned

*All of the hymns listed below have permissions for in-person performance, live streaming and online recording/archiving, assuming you have legally obtained copies of the UU hymnals and unless otherwise noted. ([Permission Source](#))*

- 21 - For the Beauty of the Earth
- 22 - Dear Weaver of Our Lives Design
- 29 - Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
- 44 - We Sing of Golden Mornings
- 61 - Lo, the Earth Awakes Again
- 78 - Color and Fragrance
- 94 - What is this Life?
- 132 - Bright Those Jewels
- 182 - O, the Beauty in a Life

- 319 - Ye Earthborn Children of a Star
- 327 - Joy, Thou Goddess
- 329 - Life Has Loveliness to Sell
- 330 - The Arching Sky of Morning Glows

### Hymns: Singing the Journey - permissioned

*All of the hymns listed below have permissions for in-person performance, live streaming and online recording/archiving, assuming you have legally obtained copies of the UU hymnals and unless otherwise noted. ([Permission Source](#))*

- 1004 - Busca el amor
- 1005 - Praise in Springtime
- 1065 - Alabanza (As the Rain is Falling)
- 1068 - Rising Green

## Hymns: Singing the Living Tradition - permissions needed

*The following permissions are needed if using in streaming/hybrid/online recorded services*

57 - All Beautiful the March of Days (music: Oxford University Press, One License)

77 - Seek Not Afar for Beauty (music: Hope Publishing Co., One License)

82 - This Land of Bursting Sunrise (G.I.A. Publications, One License)

130 - O Liberating Rose ([email](#) when used)

163 - For the Earth Forever Turning (words/music: Kim Oler, One License)

203 - All Creatures of the Earth and Sky (music: Oxford University Press, One License)

326 - Let all the Beauty We Have Known (music: Oxford University Press, One License)

353 - Golden Breaks the Dawn (harmony: permission given if David Dawson credited; words: permission granted to any UU congregation)

## Hymns: Singing the Journey - permissions needed

*The following permissions are needed if using in streaming/hybrid/online recorded services*

1000 - Morning Has Come (must own hymnal)

1038 - The 23rd Psalm (Original Artists, CCS)

1064 - Blue Boat Home (words/music: CCS)

## Contemporary Suggestions - permissions needed

*If you are streaming your services/are hybrid, please note that all copyright permissions are your responsibility to obtain\*\**

- *Beautiful* - Christina Aguilera
- *Morning Has Broken* - Eleanor Farjeon
- *What a Wonderful World* - Bob Thiele & George David Weiss
- *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* - Arlen/Harburg
- *Try* - Colbie Callait
- *Scars to Your Beautiful* - Alessia Cara
- *Beautiful Disaster* - Kelly Clarkson
- *Unwritten* - Natasha Bedingfield

Many of the above songs can be found on JWPepper, MusicNotes.com and the Chords/Tabs for most of the above can be found here:

[Ultimate Guitar](#)

[Ukulele Chords/Tabs - Free to Transpose](#)

[Chordify](#)

## Choral/Vocal

All listed music can be found on [JWPepper/SBMP](#) and can be located by following the link or searching by title.

- [For the Beauty of the Earth](#) - SATB, SA, TTBB - John Rutter
- [Now I Walk in Beauty](#) - SATB - Arr. Gregg Smith
- [As I Walk in Beauty](#) - SSA - Bob Moore
- [If You Love for Beauty](#) - SATB, SSAA, TBB - Clara Schumann - Arr. McCullough
- [A Beautiful Land](#) - SATB - Benjamin David Knoedler
- [Sing to Me](#) - SATB - Reginal Wright
- [Beautiful](#) - Arr. Mac Huff - SATB, SAB, SSA
- [Beauty](#) - SATB w/divisi - Arr. Keiji Ishiguri
- [Still I Rise](#) - SSAA - Rosephanye Powell
- [Cherry Blossom Snow](#) - SATB - Hyun Kook
- [In a Mother's Heart - Unison/2-part/opt violin](#) - Thomas Keesecker
- [Gartan Mother's Lullaby](#) - SATB - Arr. Neil Ginsberg
- [Mother's Prayer](#) - SATB - Philip Stopford
- [In May](#) - SATB - Saunder Choi
- [What a Wonderful World](#) - SATB, SAB, 2-part, SSA - Arr. Mark Brymer
- [May](#) - SATB - Eugene Butler
- [The Beauty of Life](#) - SATB - Robert S. Cohen

## Instrumental/Handbell:

- [For the Beauty of the Earth](#) - piano
- [But Beautiful](#) - Johnny Burke - piano
- [May](#) - Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky - piano
- [Song of May](#) - W.A. Mozart - piano
- [For the Beauty of the Earth](#) - 3-va - Arr. Ron Mallory
- [Now is the Month of Maying](#) - 3-5va - Arr. Sylves
- [Guiding Spirit](#) - 3-5va - Cathy Moglebust

## Music for Online Worship from UUA

*The following videos may be used in online and recorded worship services by Unitarian Universalist congregations. The music that follows does not require additional permission for online use (see sidebar). However, be sure to provide full attribution to the composers and lyricists on your screens, not just verbally, for each piece that you incorporate into worship.*

*These videos are intended to lighten the burdens imposed by online worship. They should not be used to justify decreasing the wages or positions of professional music staff. ([Permission Source](#))*

- ["Come, Sing a Song with Me" \(YouTube\)](#) as an animal puppet video (#346 in in Singing the Living Tradition; music and words by Carolyn McDade). Created by MaryJane Wagner for an intergenerational service
- ["Blue Boat Home" \(YouTube\)](#) (words by Peter Mayer; #1064 in Singing the Journey). Created by Paul Thompson (Music Director at the UU Church of the Palouse, Moscow ID). Please make a pay-what-you-can [donation](#).
- ["To See a World" \(GoogleDrive\)](#) (#398 in Singing the Living Tradition; words by William Blake, music traditional Norwegian, arranged by Edvard Grieg.) Video by the UU Virtual Singers of the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos, NM; Nylea Butler-Moore, Music Director; Rick Bolton, AV Engineer. If you use this video, please email Nylea at nyleab@uulosalamos.org. [Pay-what-you-can to the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos](#).
- ["Morning Has Come \(YouTube\)"](#) (words & music by Jason Shelton; #1000 in Singing the Journey). Created by Paul Thompson (Music Director at the UU Church of the Palouse, Moscow ID).
- Adam and Matt Podd's arrangement of ["My Life Flows on in Endless Song" \("How Can I Keep From Singing"\) \(YouTube\)](#), featuring musicians and singers from Grace Chorale of Brooklyn, First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, and First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn. (Quaker text; melody by American Baptist minister Robert Wadsworth Lowry; #108 in Singing the Living Tradition). Adam's PayPal ID: adamppodd@gmail.com/Venmo: @adamppodd

## But Wait, There's (a bit) More...

*Please see individual citation preferences/donation opportunities.*

- Jess Huetteman has beautifully recorded and shared 65 UU hymns on YouTube for use - find them [here](#). Please [pay-what-you-can](#) if you utilize this amazing resource.
- As always - many, many thanks to Sharon Scholl for her ongoing generosity in the sharing of her talent with us all - here is this month's original composition:
  - [Beauty](#)
    - Please visit [Sharon Scholl's website](#) for many more compositions and arrangements! She would love to hear back from you about any music you download and use. Please contact [Amanda Udis-Kessler](#) to reach Sharon. Amanda will pass along your messages and contact information.

## Extra, Extra!!!

**Read All About:** "The ways in which the work of Black Americana musicians has been reaching new levels of popularity and influence. Now is a cultural moment in which an increasing number of artists of African descent are reclaiming the hidden histories of Black Appalachia (sometimes referred to as Affrilachia)." [Here are 15 such artists](#). From Paste Magazine.

# Stories For All Ages

## Animal School: A Parable

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JccLYKqm0jA>

**Parable:** <https://www.uoguelph.ca/oaar/animal-school.html>

**Online Permission Note:** *There are numerous sources for this parable based on the fable by George Reavis; choose your favorite version to create a version of your own! Since the story itself is in the public domain, you are free to use and alter it. But be sure to credit a particular source if you use it verbatim or heavily draw on it.*

## The Big Orange Splot by Daniel Manus Pinkwater

**Book:** <https://www.amazon.com/Big-Orange-Splot-Manus-Pinkwater/dp/0590445103>

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpkNJTJBSP>

**Online Permission Note:** *Scholastic Publishers, has authorized its books for online use as long as you follow their specific use guidelines found [HERE](#).*

## Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature by Joyce Sidman

**Video Read Aloud:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0ZRdDPYgtU>

**Book:** <http://amzn.to/2jWtGiv>

**Online Permission Note:** *HMH Books for Young Readers, has authorized its books for online use as long as you follow their specific use guidelines found [HERE](#).*

## Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o

**Book:** [here](#)

**Read Aloud:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vujbTOuzg2Q>

**Online Permission Note:** *Penguin Random House Publishers has authorized its books for online use as long as you follow their specific use guidelines found [HERE](#). Just scroll down to the section titled "Penguin Random House Publishers."*

## The Perfect Heart

**Story:** <https://paulocoelhoblog.com/2010/10/04/readers-story-the-perfect-heart/>

**Online Permission Note:** *There are numerous sources for the parable; choose your favorite version to create a version of your own! Since the story itself is in the public domain, you are free to use and alter it. But be sure to credit a particular source if you use it verbatim or heavily draw on it.*

## The Dog at the Well, a Muslim Tale - From Tapestry of Faith, Gather the Spirit

*Nurturing Beauty by sharing of ourselves*

**Online Story:** <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/multigenerational/gather/workshop7/149663.shtml>

**Online Permission Note:** *Tapestry of Faith material has been authorized for online use [here](#).*

## The Hummingbird

**Video and Song by Lea Morris:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqPMMcOiL-g>

**Online story of the Brave Little Parrot:**

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/tales/session15/123724.shtml>

**More about our video story and song project with Lea Morris...**

*The Soul Matters Team is thrilled about this year's creative collaboration with Lea Morris. Each month Lea tells one of our selected & theme-based wisdom tales and then shares a reflection & song inspired by that story. It's a beautiful blending of her wonderful story-telling skills, luminous songwriting and joy-filled singing.*

*As with all ten of the videos Lea is creating, the purchase price per video is \$20.*

With your purchase comes the **following usage rights:**

- *Playing the video in online and in-person worship services (including recorded services)*
- *Playing the video in online and in-person children's religious education programs/presentations (including ones that are recorded and posted online)*
- *Sending out a link to the video to parents so they can watch it with their children at home as part of their family spiritual life activities*

**Purchase all ten at a lower price:** Follow this link to purchase all ten of Lea's story/song videos on all ten of our Soul Matters themes at: <https://www.hopesingseternal.me/stories/alltenstorysongs>

## Sometimes You're a Caterpillar

*As recommended by UUA Youth Office, Race and Identity Resources*

*Snail and Caterpillar are besties, they live in a beautiful garden. When they try to go out to a party, they find out they are different. \*\*Teachers note: This video does use the words "crap" and has a sentence that says "I'm trying to hook up with a cute ladybug" however the overall message is a great one. \*\*\**

**Video:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRiWgx4sHGg&list=PL8PINNxdxil6gcm6fxPDG9Yt\\_IMrMrluf&index=39&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRiWgx4sHGg&list=PL8PINNxdxil6gcm6fxPDG9Yt_IMrMrluf&index=39&t=0s)

**Online Permission Note:** *wisdom tale in the public domain*

## The Starry Night by Neil Waldman

*Nurturing Beauty by letting our imaginations run wild as we create art.*

**Book:** [https://www.amazon.com/Starry-Night-Neil-Waldman/dp/1590787803/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1518630137&sr=1-4&keywords=The+Starry+night](https://www.amazon.com/Starry-Night-Neil-Waldman/dp/1590787803/ref=sr_1_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1518630137&sr=1-4&keywords=The+Starry+night)

**Read Aloud:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gug\\_nuqPbBA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gug_nuqPbBA)

**Online Permission Note:** *Boyd's Mills in an imprint of Penguin Random House, and has authorized its books for online use as long as you follow their specific use guidelines found [HERE](#).*

# Sermon Seeds

## *Angles, Ideas & Twists To Get Your Sermon Started!*

Don't forget to explore the small group packet for additional sermon seeds. It contains quotes and poems to enhance your sermon, as well as numerous sermon angles in the questions and the spiritual exercises.

**Permissions Notes:** In addition to the pieces, we've noted as permissioned for online use (marked with an asterisk\*), you can use the fair use sized quotes and fair use sized portions of longer pieces in your sermons/services. Pay attention to the hyperlinks we include within titles and authors' names; these hyperlinks provide the source material and direction for you to hunt down permissions on your own.

## ***On the Many Faces of Beauty***

### **Quote - [John O'Donohue](#)**

One of the huge confusions in our times is to mistake glamor for beauty... When I think of the word "beauty," some of the faces of those that I love come into my mind. When I think of beauty, I also think of beautiful landscapes that I know. Then I think of acts of such lovely kindness that have been done to me by people that cared for me in bleak, unsheltered times or when I needed to be loved and minded. I also think of those unknown people who are the real heroes for me, who you never hear about, who hold out on lines, on frontiers of awful want and awful situations and manage, somehow, to go beyond the given impoverishments and offer gifts of possibility and imagination and seeing.

### **Book - Six Names of Beauty, by Crispin Sartwell**

"Beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, but it's also in the language we use and everywhere in the world around us. In this elegant, witty, and ultimately profound meditation on what is beautiful, Crispin Sartwell begins with six words from six different cultures - ancient Greek's 'to kalon', the Japanese idea of 'wabi-sabi', Hebrew's 'yapha', the Navajo concept 'hozho', Sanskrit 'sundara', and our own English-language 'beauty'. Each word becomes a door onto another way of thinking about, and looking at, what is beautiful in the world, and in our lives..." - <https://www.amazon.com/Six-Names-Beauty-Crispin-Sartwell/dp/0415979927>

### **Poem - The Life of Beauty, Joy Harjo**

Full poem found at

[https://www.reddit.com/r/Poetry/comments/eub3ff/poem\\_the\\_life\\_of\\_beauty\\_by\\_joy\\_harjo\\_the\\_first/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Poetry/comments/eub3ff/poem_the_life_of_beauty_by_joy_harjo_the_first/)

The sung blessing of creation  
Led her into the human story.  
That was the first beauty.  
Next beauty was the sound of her mother's voice...  
Next beauty the father with kindness in his hands...  
Next beauty the moon through the dark window  
It was a rocking horse, a wish.  
There were many beauties in this age...

## ***On the Beauty in You***

**Reflection - Meant for love and beauty**, Rev. Theresa Soto

Full piece at <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/blog-roundup-2018-10-05>

I need you to know  
that there is nothing  
wrong with you...  
You are meant  
for love and beauty. You belong  
where you are known and  
where your future is not just a  
resource, but a promise...

**Spoken Poetry - To This Day**, Shane Koyczan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltun92DfnPY>

“if you can’t see anything beautiful about yourself  
get a better mirror, look a little closer, stare a little longer  
because there’s something inside you that made you keep trying  
despite everyone who told you to quit you built a cast around your broken heart and signed it yourself  
you signed it”

**Podcast - Reclaiming UGLY as an Act of Queer Pleasure**

[https://reclaimugly.org/2021/04/05/the-queer-spirit-podcast/?utm\\_source=pocket\\_mylist](https://reclaimugly.org/2021/04/05/the-queer-spirit-podcast/?utm_source=pocket_mylist)

**Article - The history of ugliness**

<https://bigthink.com/culture-religion/the-history-of-ugliness-shows-that-there-is-no-such-thing/#:~:text=With%20its%20storied%20history%2C%20ugliness,%2C%20Brutalist%20architecture%2C%20and%20more.>

**Book - Ugliness: A Cultural History**

Review: <https://bookunbound.wordpress.com/books/ugliness-a-cultural-history/>

## ***On Sharing Beauty***

**Quote - Mandy Hale**

There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others.

**Reflection - Your Soul's Address**, Elea Kemler

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/your-souls-address>

[Permission Source](#)

“A couple of years ago I started wearing a pin on my coat that says, “You are beautiful.” ...”



## ***On Beauty and Passion***

**Quote - [Lazaro Hernandez and Jack McCollough](#)**

We crave what we consider beautiful, and that craving can easily develop into desire, which in turn becomes the fuel that propels us into action. Beauty has the power to spawn aspiration and passion, thus becoming the impetus to achieve our dreams.

## ***On Beauty and the Body***

**Quote - Jan Phillips “Divining the Body”**

It's through our stories that we begin to name ourselves, to say who we are under all the social trappings, and to emerge from those trappings like a butterfly from a chrysalis. We are midwives, in a way, to each other's rebirth.... an attempt to undo the damage we've sustained living in a culture that thrives on our self-hatred. It is a sanctification of our human bodies...a journey of awe and reverence...

**Spoken Poem - The Body Is Not An Apology, [Sonya Renee Taylor](#)**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLcT5qj3ZBNzMhaUllqjrUXKflByJNYZM&time\\_continue=75&v=B7IKPdh\\_y-8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLcT5qj3ZBNzMhaUllqjrUXKflByJNYZM&time_continue=75&v=B7IKPdh_y-8)

**Book - The Body Is Not an Apology: The Power of Radical Self-Love**

*Sonya Renee Taylor*

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34956885-the-body-is-not-an-apology>

[Quotes from the book: [https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/56231062-the-body-is-not-an-apology-the-power-of-radical-self-love?fbclid=IwAR3hl8vaie10WoehrGb16X-B-VGure4M8MhPqhOrtYyiEhY8mV\\_JXy3STc](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/56231062-the-body-is-not-an-apology-the-power-of-radical-self-love?fbclid=IwAR3hl8vaie10WoehrGb16X-B-VGure4M8MhPqhOrtYyiEhY8mV_JXy3STc)]

**Spoken poetry - Beautiful Body, Natalie Patterson**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lealjFA1l8o>

**Video Interviews - What is One Thing You Want to Change About Your Body?**

On our relationship with our bodies, before and after culture takes hold.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0tEcxLDDd4&app=desktop>

**TED Talk - Body Positivity or Body Obsession?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDowwh0EU4w>

“Over the last 15 years or so, lots of well-meaning people and companies have worked to improve women’s body image by pushing the message that all women are beautiful, flaws and all. This is a really nice message, but it isn’t fixing the problem. That’s because girls and women aren’t only suffering because of the unattainable ways that beauty is being defined; their suffering because they are being defined by beauty - They are told they are bodies first and people second. So rather than working to make sure more women’s bodies are viewed as valuable, we are focused on making sure that women are valued as more than bodies to view...”

**Quote - [Ursula K. Le Guin](#)**

Beauty always has rules. It’s a game. I resent the beauty game when I see it controlled by people who grab fortunes from it and don’t care who they hurt. I hate it when I see it making people so self-dissatisfied that they starve and deform and poison themselves.

### **Poem - Phenomenal Woman**

*Dr. Maya Angelou*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeFfhH83\\_RE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeFfhH83_RE)

Read by Phenomenal Women: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7c6i-R6gFY>

### **Blog post - Why I've Chosen Body Liberation Over Body Love**

*Jes Baker*

[http://www.themilitantbaker.com/2018/06/why-ive-chosen-body-liberation-over.html?m=1&fbclid=IwAR2-f5eBnvfPdeAaTRLSxBMQTjyxgvCYuSUr-vidvt1mxU8fUE\\_cx6pP9Ng](http://www.themilitantbaker.com/2018/06/why-ive-chosen-body-liberation-over.html?m=1&fbclid=IwAR2-f5eBnvfPdeAaTRLSxBMQTjyxgvCYuSUr-vidvt1mxU8fUE_cx6pP9Ng)

### **Reflection/Essay - Abundant Love**

*KC Slack*

<https://unexpecteddivinity.wordpress.com/2015/04/06/abundant-love/?fbclid=IwAR1OLBM2zCGLhqH8o27P9k29u3OgNZSG73cd7cvqTDx9COIEo3QENgtQs5E>

Excerpt: "We are fat and queer and trans and Black and brown. We're people who are chronically ill, and who experience mental health problems, and who interact with the world in a way different from the "norm". We are people with bodies and lives that we are supposed to believe are wrong. We're told to hide, to disappear, to blend the best we can. To kill pieces of ourselves so that someone else may think we're ok.

But we are ok. We're better than ok. We're beautiful. We are – as Psalm 139 says – fearfully and wonderfully made. We are stardust. We are the universe experiencing itself..."

### **Article - 4 Ways Our Socially Accepted Beauty Ideals Are Racist**

*Rachel Kuo*

<https://everydayfeminism.com/2017/05/beauty-ideals-racist/>

### **Poem - All Color in the Spectrum, Adam Lawrence Dyer**

Found in [Love Beyond God](#), a UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

### **Poem - Feel That? \***

*Gwen Matthews*

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/affirmation/feel>  
[Permission Source](#)

Feel that?

Each breath, every inhale, exhale

We are living, breathing, connected.

We are the whole, complete, beautiful selves

that we were born to be...

### **Reflection - Soul Lifts \***

*Tess Baumberger*

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/5541.shtml>

[Permission Source](#)

Wouldn't it be great if you could take a picture of your soul?  
Then when your mother wanted to brag about you  
she could show people the picture and say,  
"That's my daughter, doesn't she have a beautiful soul,  
all sparkly and many-colored and flowing all around her?"...

### **Story - The Beauty Contest \***

*Christopher Buice*

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/story/beauty-contest>

Once upon a time in a little village, there appeared a sign that said:  
Beauty Contest

## ***On Noticing the Beauty of Life***

### **Quote - John O'Donohue**

When we approach with reverence great things decide to approach us. Our real life comes to the surface and its light awakens the concealed beauty of things. When we walk on the earth with reverence, beauty will decide to trust us. The rushed heart and the arrogant mind lack the gentleness and patience to enter that embrace. Beauty is mysterious, a slow presence who waits for the ready, expectant heart.

### **Poem - Monet Refuses the Operation, Lisel Mueller**

Full poem found at <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/52577/monet-refuses-the-operation-56d231289e6db>

I tell you it has taken me all my life  
to arrive at the vision of gas lamps as angels,  
to soften and blur and finally banish  
the edges you regret I don't see...

### **Poem - Expect Life, Elizabeth Tarbox**

Full poem at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/5935.shtml>

In each moment expect a miracle: ten kinds of birds at the feeder, and the tracks of a fox in the snow.  
Pick up a magnifying glass and scrutinize that crocus...  
Be astonished at the flower, arrested by its beauty.  
Run naked through the garden early in the morning and hope the wild geese fly by...

**Poem - Something Wild and Unbroken, *Carrie Newcomer***

Full poem here: <http://carrinenewcomer.tumblr.com/post/122883509259/something-wild-and-unbroken>

Riding my bike down a narrow country road... A graceful young doe  
Was bounding in beautiful unhurried leaps...  
She dashed in front of me  
And disappeared into the woods  
Leaving me breathless  
With a feeling of visitation...  
Since that moment,  
The world has felt less weary...

**Poem - The Word by Tony Hoagland**

Full poem at <https://alisonmcghee.com/2013/09/07/poem-of-the-week-by-tony-hoagland-3/>

...between "green thread"  
and "broccoli" you find  
that you have penciled "sunlight."

Resting on the page, the word  
is beautiful...

[sent] to remind you that,  
among your duties, pleasure  
is a thing  
that also needs accomplishing...

**Poem - The Sun by Mary Oliver**

Full poem at <http://www.poetseers.org/contemporary-poets/mary-oliver/mary-oliver-poems/the-sun/>

Have you ever seen  
anything  
in your life  
more wonderful  
than the way the sun,  
every evening,  
relaxed and easy,  
floats toward the horizon...

or have you too  
gone crazy  
for power,  
for things?

**Quote/Poem - [Sara Teasdale](#)**

Spend all you have for loveliness,  
Buy it and never count the cost;  
For one white singing hour of peace  
Count many a year of strife well lost,  
And for a breath of ecstasy  
Give all you have been, or could be.

**Reflection - With Eyes that See, Rev. Marta Valentin**

Found in [Falling into the Sky](#), a UUA worship resource & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

## ***On Beauty and Brokenness***

**Reflection - Beauty from Brokenness, Paula Gribble \***

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/beauty-brokenness>

[Permission Source](#)

I am not saying that painful and challenging things are okay. They're not. But I would not be the person I am today if I had not gone through those things. My broken is what makes me who I am today. And you would not be the person you are without your brokenness. Your special, beautiful, graceful light couldn't shine through without the clouds surrounding you. Beautiful creations born out of brokenness...

**Article - Wabi-Sabi: The Art and Beauty of Imperfection - Utne Reader**

<https://www.utne.com/mind-and-body/wabi-sabi>

## ***On Beauty and Transcendence***

**Article - Oliver Sachs on Nature's Beauty as a Gateway into Deep Time and a Lens on the Interconnectedness of the Universe, Maria Popova**

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2018/07/17/oliver-sacks-beauty-deep-time/>

"Standing amid the rainforest — a place governed by the beauty of interrelation — Sacks reflects: 'The sense of deep time brings a deep peace with it, a detachment from the timescale, the urgencies, of daily life... a profound sense of being at home, a sort of companionship with the earth.'"

**Quote - [Pico Iyer](#)**

I love that word 'absorption' because I think that's my definition of happiness. All of us know we are happiest when we forget ourselves, when we forget the time, when we lose ourselves in a beautiful piece of music or a movie or a deep conversation with a friend or an intimate encounter with someone we love.

## **Beauty: The Invisible Embrace**

*John O'Donohue*

[https://www.amazon.com/Beauty-Invisible-Embrace-John-ODonohue/dp/0060957263/ref=asc\\_df\\_0060957263/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312281483245&hvpos=1o1&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=9334313553809628817&hvppone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9005606&hvtargid=pla-435452636568&pvc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Beauty-Invisible-Embrace-John-ODonohue/dp/0060957263/ref=asc_df_0060957263/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312281483245&hvpos=1o1&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=9334313553809628817&hvppone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9005606&hvtargid=pla-435452636568&pvc=1)

“An enchanting meditation on how beauty lays its claim on the human spirit in such disparate realms as music, love, imperfection, death, and desire.” - [Maria Popova](#)

### **Quote - [John O'Donohue](#)**

The human soul is hungry for beauty... When we experience the Beautiful, there is a sense of homecoming... In the experience of beauty we awaken and surrender in the same act. Beauty brings a sense of completion and sureness. Without any of the usual calculation, we can slip into the Beautiful with the same ease as we slip into the seamless embrace of water; something ancient within us already trusts that this embrace will hold us.

### **Quote - [André Aciman](#)**

We'll do anything to watch a sunset on a clear summer day at the beach. We'll stand and stare and remain silent, as suffused shades of orange stretch over the horizon... Call it enchantment, the difference between the time-bound and the timeless, between us and the otherworldly. All beauty and art evoke harmonies that transport us to a place where, for only seconds, time stops, and we are one with the world. It is the best life has to offer. Under the spell of beauty, we experience a rare condition called plenitude, where we want for nothing.

### **Quote - Simone Weil, *Waiting for God***

The beauty of the world is the mouth of a labyrinth. The unwary individual who on entering takes a few steps is soon unable to find the opening. Worn out, with nothing to eat or drink, in the dark, separated from his dear ones, and from everything he loves and is accustomed to, he walks on without knowing anything or hoping anything, incapable even of discovering whether he is really going forward or merely turning round on the same spot. But this affliction is as nothing compared with the danger threatening him. For if he does not lose courage, if he goes on walking, it is absolutely certain that he will finally arrive at the center of the labyrinth. And there God is waiting to eat him. Later he will go out again, but he will be changed, he will have become different, after being eaten and digested by God. Afterward he will stay near the entrance so that he can gently push all those who come near into the opening.

### **Quote - [Pico Iyer](#)**

I love that word 'absorption' because I think that's my definition of happiness. All of us know we are happiest when we forget ourselves, when we forget the time, when we lose ourselves in a beautiful piece of music or a movie or a deep conversation with a friend or an intimate encounter with someone we love.

# ***On Beauty and Social Change***

## **Book - On Beauty and Being Just**

*Elaine Scarry*

<https://www.amazon.com/Beauty-Being-Just-Elaine-Scarry/dp/0691089590>

### **Quote - Cristina Mittermeier and Paul Nicklen**

Beauty has less to do with the material things around us, and more to do with how we spend our time on earth. We create true beauty only when we channel our energy to achieve a higher purpose, build strong communities and model our behavior so that others can find inspiration to do better by each other and our planet. Beauty has nothing to do with the latest makeup or fashion trends, and everything to do with how we live on this planet and act to protect it.

### **Quote - Rev. Mary Katherine Morn**

The scholar Elaine Scarry ties these two (beauty and justice) together in a wonderful way in her little study entitled *On Beauty and Being Just*. Scarry contends that when we are apprehended by beauty we are changed. We know this well. We know the way our breath deepens, our gaze fixes, our mind clears, and our heart opens. This is what beauty does. She goes so far as to say beauty brings us to life. It awakens us. This should be easy, but often it is not. That is because beauty does more than awaken us. It also admonishes us. It demands something. It changes things. The poet Baron Wormser asks 'What would happen if [you] heeded the admonitions of beauty?' What indeed."

### **Quote - Rev. Mary Katherine Morn**

Beauty awakens and admonishes us... We are here, in religious community not to hide from the anguished cries or the tender lullabies. We are here, in religious community, not to protect our hearts from breaking. We are here together to borrow courage for the task of coming alive. We are here so that together we might heed the admonitions of beauty. Answer the call to create, protect, and preserve.

### **Quote - Rev. Sean Parker Dennison**

The ability to see beauty is the beginning of our moral sensibility. What we believe is beautiful we will not wantonly destroy.

### **Quote - Robert McAfee Brown, *Creative Dislocations of Grace***

How can beauty and the oppressed be understood together? For the Christian, the question is, how can they possibly be understood separately? So I conclude that concern for beauty is not a moral cop-out. It leads us firmly into the midst of all that is going on in our world.

Where beauty is apparent, we are to enjoy it.

Where there is beauty hidden, we are to unveil it.

Where there is beauty defaced, we are to restore it.

Where there is no beauty at all, we are to create it.

All of which places us in the arena where oppression occurs, where the oppressed congregate, and where we too are called to be.

### **Quote - Phil Ochs**

In such ugly times, the only true protest is beauty.

**Quote - June Jordan**

To tell the truth is to become beautiful, to begin to love yourself, value yourself. And that's political, in its most profound way.

**Quote - Reshma Saujani**

Beauty can stop us in our tracks. It can inspire us, move us, bring us to tears. Beauty can create total chaos, and then total clarity. The best kind of beauty changes hearts and minds.

That's why the bravery of our girls is so beautiful — it can do all these things...

Their bravery is beauty, redefined. And it's what we need now, more than ever.

**Reading - Beauty Is \***

*Christopher D. Sims (UU spoken word artist and peace activist) and Rev. David Breeden (UU Parish Minister)*

[Permission secured by Soul Matters](#)

Hey, what do you want to talk?  
Do you want to talk beauty?

Here's what I want to talk:  
Beauty is what I'm gonna talk:

Beauty is . . .  
Beauty is . . .

Beauty is  
Brown, white,  
Yellow, red-skinned  
People acting as kin.

Beauty is within.

Beauty is hymns  
Holistically reaching  
us, holding us all.

Beauty is the fall  
Of stereotypes;  
Accessing human  
Rights; the call for  
Justice in the day  
And in the night.

Beauty is  
And beauty does!  
Do you want to talk beauty?

Here's what I want to talk:  
Beauty is you.  
Beauty is us.  
Beauty is us together.

Beauty is  
And shuts that hate  
Down!

**Reading - Where there is beauty... \***

*Rev. Karen G. Johnston*

[Permission secured by Soul Matters](#)

What to do with beauty?  
or joy, for that matter —  
in the midst of tragedy,  
of violence, of cruelty?  
What do we do with the living?  
Give each their due.  
Do not lose ourselves in any of it,

but find ourselves anew.  
Where there is beauty, amplify it.  
Where beauty is hidden, reveal it.  
Where beauty is ruined, restore it.  
Where beauty is absent, create it:  
This will be our gift to our aching world



# Recommended Sermons

## Notes about 2021-22 sermon recommendations:

- **We mostly list written scripts:** In order not to undermine UU preachers who depend on live and online guest preaching income for their livelihood, we mainly focus on sharing sermon texts (and sometimes audio clips), but not videos.
- **Permissions Secured:** All of the sermons below have received permission for your online use. Unless otherwise noted, they can be used for both live streaming and recorded services that are posted on YouTube or a podcast. **However, to be extra cautious and in good relationship, we ask that you reach out to the minister to let them know you are planning to use their sermon, also asking if they have any particular requests or guidance for how to do that.**
- **An Important Note About Editing:** If you want to make changes to the sermon for brevity or contextualization, **you need to reach out to the preachers directly for such editing permission.** Contact information of each of the referenced preachers is at the end of the Sermon section.

### Algorithms of Beauty

Rev. Joan Javier-Duval

[https://ucmvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/June-2\\_Algorithms-of-Beauty.pdf](https://ucmvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/June-2_Algorithms-of-Beauty.pdf)

### The Call of Beauty

Rev. Julie Stoneberg

[http://peterboroughunitarian.ca/files/2015/06/Call-of-Beauty\\_150607.pdf](http://peterboroughunitarian.ca/files/2015/06/Call-of-Beauty_150607.pdf)

A sermon on beauty, becoming and process theology, all leading to the idea that God is the lure and call of beauty. What could be better than that?!

### Look into the Mirror

Rev. Julie Stoneberg

[http://peterboroughunitarian.ca/files/2015/06/Look-into-the-mirror\\_150614.pdf](http://peterboroughunitarian.ca/files/2015/06/Look-into-the-mirror_150614.pdf)

“When we look at the beauty of nature, we are looking into a mirror...a mirror that can reflect that beauty that we also are...”

### The Body's Grace

Rev. Elea Kemler

<http://uugroton.org/Sermons/thebodysgrace.html>

## Featured Preacher Bios & Contact Information

Rev. Joan Javier-Duval: <https://ucmvt.org/contacts/contact-joan/>

Rev. Julie Stoneberg: <https://peterboroughunitarian.ca/people/julie-stoneberg/>

Rev. Elea Kemler: <https://uugroton.org/kemler.html>

# Closing Words

## **Spend all you have for loveliness...**

[Sara Teasdale](#)

Spend all you have for loveliness,  
Buy it and never count the cost;  
For one white singing hour of peace  
Count many a year of strife well lost,  
And for a breath of ecstasy  
Give all you have been, or could be.

## **The World is Too Beautiful, Eric Williams \***

Full piece at

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/benediction/world-too-beautiful>

[Permission Source](#)

The world is too beautiful to be praised by only one voice.  
May you have the courage to sing your part...

## **Closing from Rumi**

Today, like every other day, we wake up empty and frightened.  
Don't open the door to the study and begin reading.  
Take down a musical instrument.  
Let the beauty we love be what we do.  
There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.  
[Go in beauty. Kiss the ground. Amen.]

## **Kindle New Sparks, Debra Burrell \***

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-extinguishing/kindle-new-sparks>

[Permission Source](#)

We have basked in the warmth and beauty of this flame and this community.

## **Where There is Beauty, Rev. Karen G. Johnston \***

[Permission secured by Soul Matters](#)

What to do with beauty?  
or joy, for that matter —  
in the midst of tragedy,  
of violence, of cruelty?  
What do we do with the living?  
Give each their due.  
Do not lose ourselves in any of it,  
but find ourselves anew.  
Where there is beauty,  
amplify it.  
Where beauty is hidden,  
reveal it.  
Where beauty is ruined,  
restore it.  
Where beauty is absent,  
create it:  
This will be our gift to our aching world

## **May Our Lives, Rev. Chris Rothbauer**

Full piece at

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/may-our-lives>  
[Permission Source](#)

May our lives be reflections of the beauty, peace, and joy that is possible in the world

## **Beauty is before me...**

*Native American Prayer*

Source:

<https://friendsofsilence.net/quote/2007/06/beauty-me-and-beauty-behind-me>

And

[http://www.phys.unm.edu/~tw/fas/yits/archive/navaho\\_nightwaysong.html](http://www.phys.unm.edu/~tw/fas/yits/archive/navaho_nightwaysong.html)

Beauty is before me  
And beauty is behind me  
Above and below me hovers the beautiful  
I am surrounded by it  
I am immersed in it  
In my youth I am aware of it  
And in old age I shall walk quietly  
The beautiful trail.

## Support

**Join the Soul Matters Worship Leader Support Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

**Join the Soul Matters Ministers' Support Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/719788338192570/>

**Attend one of our two monthly online ministers' brainstorming groups:**

First Tuesdays and First Thursdays of each month at 1pm eastern  
with this zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5857099120>

**Attend our monthly online musicians' brainstorming group:**

First Tuesdays of each month at 4pm eastern  
with this zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5857099120>

## Inspiration

**Our Facebook Inspiration Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

**Our Instagram Page:**

Find us as "soul\_matters\_circle"

**Music Playlists:**

Click [here](#) for links to the [Spotify playlists](#) for each month.

Click [here](#) to check out the [YouTube playlists](#).



**Soul Matters**

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<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com>