

BEAUTY

First Parish Church, Duxbury, MA, September 2020 (Robert Teehan)

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING

“A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.”
- John Keats (from “Endymion”)

SILENT REFLECTION

CHECK-IN:

FOCUS: The pursuit of beauty in our lives, and the desire to create and share it.

Many of us have been blessed to see the setting sun paint the sky in spectacular hues, or watch the starlight dance atop the waters. Many have heard the whispers of wind and the rhythms of a receding of the tide. We have embraced the sounds of Mozart and lost ourselves in the wonder of Van Gogh. We have tasted laughter and shared its sweetness with love and joy. We have become enlivened, as we have reveled in the world’s endless beauty.

DISCUSSION: Choose any of the following to discuss, or let the topic take you wherever it is you feel the need to go.

It is said that beauty lies in the eye of the beholder, therefore what is the most beautiful things your eyes have beheld? The most awe-inspiring?

What do you find beautiful about mankind? The natural world? Art?

Is there beauty in the mundane? In the grotesque?

Is there beauty in civil unrest? In danger? In chaos?

How are you most beautiful?

In what ways do you share your own inner beauty with world?

Is there a dark side to beauty and/or the pursuit of it?

LIKES AND WISHES

CLOSING WORDS:

“Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it,”
- Confucius

“Love is the beauty of the soul”
- St. Augustine

“Beauty awakens the soul to act.”
- Dante Alighieri

“That which God said to the rose, and caused it to laugh in full-blown beauty, He said to my heart, and made it a hundred times more beautiful.”
-Rumi

“Handsome is as handsome does.”
-Mom

“Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old.”
- Franz Kafka

“The beauty of the world, which is so soon to perish, has two edges, one of laughter, one of anguish, cutting the heart asunder.”
- Virginia Woolf

“Life deprived of beauty is not worthy of being called human.”
- Luis Barragan

‘Beauty is truth, truth beauty—that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.’
– John Keats