

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
Chalice Circles

**Do you believe you have a destiny, and do you see yourself as here to fulfill it?**  
Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Bremerton, WA, Rev. Liz Stevens, 2006-2007

**Opening Reading:** Vocation by William Stafford

The dream the world is having about itself  
includes a trace on the plains of the Oregon trail,  
a groove in the grass my father showed us all  
one day while meadowlarks were trying to tell  
something better about to happen.

I dreamed the trace to the mountains, over the hills,  
and there a girl who belonged wherever she was.  
But then my mother called us back to the car:  
she was afraid; she always blamed the place,  
the time, anything my father planned.

Now both of my parents, the long line through the plain  
the meadowlarks, the sky, the world's whole dream  
remain, and I hear him say while I stand between the two,  
helpless, both of them part of me:  
"Your job is to find what the world is trying to be."

**Discussion Questions:**

Do you believe you have a destiny? What is it? How did you find it?

Are you fulfilling it?

How do fate and free choice impact one another? If we have a destiny, can we choose not to fulfill it?

If you don't believe in destiny per se, could there still be value in acting as if you have one?

**Closing Reading:** Mary Oliver: The Builders

On a summer morning  
I sat down  
on a hillside  
to think about God –

a worthy pastime.  
Near me, I saw  
a single cricket;  
it was moving the grains of the hillside

this way and that way.  
How great was its energy,  
how humble its effort.  
Let us hope

it will always be like this,  
each of us going on  
in our inexplicable ways  
building the universe.