

## Ending

Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Bremerton, WA, Rev. Liz Stevens, 2006-2007

### Opening Reading:

“Everything” by Mary Oliver

I want to make poems that say right out, plainly,  
what I mean, that don't go looking for the  
laces of elaboration, puffed sleeves. I want to  
keep close and use often words like  
*heavy, heart, joy, soon*, and to cherish  
the question mark and her bold sister

the dash. I want to write with quiet hands. I  
want to write while crossing the fields that are  
fresh with daisies and everlasting and the  
ordinary grass. I want to make poems while thinking of  
the bread of heaven and the  
cup of astonishment; let them be

songs in which nothing is neglected,  
not a hope, not a promise. I want to make poems  
that look into the earth and the heavens  
and see the unseeable. I want them to honor  
both the heart of faith, and the light of the world;  
the gladness that says, without any words, *everything*.

### Discussion Questions:

What are the insights and gifts of wisdom you've found during the year? In yourself? From the others in your circle?

Are you changed in any way? Is it a good change?

What are the answers that you've found to the “Ten Eternal Questions”? Are there other answers that you found?

And last but not least: what are you going to do about it?

### Closing Reading:

“For the Children” by Gary Snyder

The rising hills, the slopes,  
of statistics  
lie before us.  
The steep climb  
of everything, going up,  
up, as we all  
go down.

In the next century

or the one beyond that,  
they say,  
are valleys, pastures,  
we can meet there in peace  
if we make it.

To climb these coming crests  
one word to you, to  
you and your children:

*stay together*  
*learn the flowers*  
*go light*