

Who do you most admire in this world, historical or living?

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

Opening Reading: “Incarnation” by Rev. David O. Rankin

I met him in 1962—in Mount Vernon, Iowa.

He was not a good planner: two hours late for the appointment and unaware of the location.

He was not a commanding presence: short in stature and ungainly in movement.

He was not a handsome figure: slightly overweight and clothes too small for the body.

He was not a congenial person: impatient in conversation and never fully present.

He was not a great speaker: words lost in the nose and ill timed gestures.

He was not a creative individual: ideas borrowed from others and frequent repetition.

He was not a happy character: wide mournful eyes and lips not made for smiling.

But if God appeared anywhere in the 20th Century—it was in the form of Martin Luther King Jr.

Discussion Questions:

If you could meet with your most admired person, what would you ask them?

What are the characteristics you most admire?

Which of those characteristics do you also see in yourself? In others you know and love?

What stresses does deep admiration put on a relationship?

Closing Reading:

“Incarnation” by Barbara Pescan

Watching in the morning
for whatever opens to you
when dawn comes pipping through
the egg of the sky
you forget:

something is also waiting for you.

It is not important
that you believe this

(grip it hard through the sullen nights
as an amulet against all bitter days)

only that you remember it
when one day
someone comes sighing your name
arms open in welcome.