



Oneness and Diversity

SUNDAY “DIVINE SPARK” SERVICE FOR NEW THOUGHT CENTERS

1. MUSICAL OPENING BY _____

2. WELCOME AND INVOCATION BY _____

3. MUSICAL SELECTION BY _____

4. MINISTER: STATEMENT & PURPOSE OF “DIVINE SPARK” SERVICE

A. Intro to the importance of Interfaith-Intercultural celebration

MINISTER: In hundreds of spiritual centers around the world today, people are reflecting on the proposition that interfaith and intercultural understanding is what forms the foundation of global peace-building to which we are all so deeply committed.

The late Bro. Wayne Teasdale, wrote in his book: *The Mystic Heart*...

“Humanity stands at a crossroads between horror and hope. In choosing hope, we must seed a new consciousness, a radically fresh approach to life drawing its inspiration from perennial spiritual and moral insights, intuition and experience. We call this new awareness Interspiritual, implying not the homogenization of religion, but the recovering of the shared mystic heart beating in the center of the world’s deepest spiritual traditions.”

Spiritual and religious belief systems shape worldviews that, in turn, determine cultural norms. We believe that discord between and among cultures is a symptom of human woundedness catalyzed by failed understanding. When compassionately understood, the diverse wisdom of our spiritual legacies give rise to healing. WE DO have a hand in determining whether cultures evolve, or merely change.

Today, we're right in the middle of a planet-wide values shift. Its implications for religion, spirituality, inter-cultural healing and personal development are profound, indeed. At its very heart lie new understandings of peace and nonviolence, social / economic justice, human rights, and ecological sustainability.

B. Intro to The Mt. Fuji Declaration

MINISTER: Across the globe, an increasing number of us are awakening to the realization that we are fundamentally interconnected. We modern humans are faced with a historic opportunity to consciously co-evolve with one another and with nature through a network of constructive relationships that transcend ethnic, national, and cultural differences.

The Fuji Declaration, initiated by Masami Saionji, Dr. Ervin Laszlo and Hiroo Saionji, is an international alliance of individuals and organizations who are united by a shared commitment to advance a more harmonious, compassionate and sustainable era for all humanity.

It is a call to all global citizens to recognize and nurture the full human potential and divine spark within each human spirit to catalyze a timely shift in the course of history.

All those who share in the core principles of The Fuji Declaration are welcome to join the international alliance by signing The Fuji Declaration and add your efforts to this emerging movement.

C. THE FUJI DECLARATION: Awakening The Divine Spark In The Spirit Of Humanity For a Civilization of Oneness with Diversity on Planet Earth



SLIDE ON SCREEN

MINISTER: A new phase in the evolution of human civilization is on the horizon. With deepening states of crisis bringing unrest to all parts of the world, there is a growing need for change in our ways of thinking and acting. We now have the choice of either spiraling into deepening peril, or breaking through to a world of dignity and wellbeing for all.

Throughout its history, humanity has been guided primarily by a material consciousness. Fearing scarcity, we have continued to pursue material gain beyond necessity, taking from others and depleting the Earth's natural resources. If our aspirations continue to focus only on what is material and finite, our world will face inevitable destruction.

5. VIDEO: MEDITATION FOR ONENESS

FREE 6 minute Interfaith Peace Quotes video produced by AGNT for viewing/projection in center/sanctuary

DOWNLOAD IN ADVANCE AT <http://www.agnt.org/Videos/Peace.mp4> (be patient... it is high quality resolution)

6. PARTICIPATORY READINGS OF FUJI DECLARATION “INQUIRIES”

OPTION a) In advance of service, invite members of staff, Board, congregation, friends to participate in these readings

OPTION b) Arrange formally for representatives from other faith communities to join service and read these sections

A. What is our true nature?

READER: In order to make more enlightened choices and change the course of our history, we need to return to the basic question concerning human life. Each and every one of us must ask, “What is our true nature?” and seek a meaningful and responsible answer.

The great spiritual traditions of the world have always been telling us that, at its root, human life is inextricably linked to its universal source. Today, the latest advances in the physical and life sciences reaffirm this perennial insight. When we rediscover our connections to nature and the cosmos, we can re-align our life with the universal movement toward oneness and harmony in and through diversity. We can restore the divine spark in the human spirit and bring forth our innate love, compassion, wisdom, and joy to live a flourishing life. The time has come for every one of us to awaken the divine spark that resides in our heart.

B. What is the purpose of our existence?

READER: We have been born at a critical juncture in history, in a world in transition, where it is possible to guide the advancement of humankind toward peace on Earth. Living peace and enabling peace to prevail on Earth is the ultimate purpose for all of us. We can and must embrace it in every sphere of our existence.

By living consciously and responsibly, we can draw upon our inherent freedom and power to shape our destiny and the destiny of humankind. Our task is to collaboratively create a world of dignity and compassion that unfolds the full potential of the human spirit—a world in which every individual gives expression to his or her highest self, in service to the human family and the whole web of life on the planet.

MUSICAL SELECTION(S)

C. Toward a new civilization

READER: It is imperative to bring together individuals from diverse fields—scientists, artists, politicians, business leaders, and others—to create a solid multidimensional foundation for catalyzing a timely shift in the course of history. The time has come for all people to become courageous pioneers—to venture beyond their personal, cultural, and national interests and beyond the boundaries of their discipline, and to come together in wisdom, spirit and intention for the benefit of all people in the human family. By so doing, we can overcome the hold of obsolete ideas and outdated behaviors in today’s unsustainable world and design a more harmonious and flourishing civilization for the coming generations.

D. The paradigm of the new civilization

READER: The paradigm of the new civilization is a culture of oneness with respect for diversity. Just as the myriad cells and diverse organs of our body are interconnected by their oneness and work together in harmony for the purpose of sustaining our life, so each and every living thing is an intrinsic part of the larger symphony of life on this planet. With the conscious recognition that we are all a part of a living universe consisting of great diversity yet embracing unity, we will co-evolve with one another and with nature through a network of constructive and coherent relationships.

7. MAKING A DIFFERENCE

MINISTER: How can we, as individuals, One Person at a time make a difference in this large world? We can do this in three specific ways on a daily basis. The first way is personally. An example of this would be : smiling, believing, dreaming, and caring. The second way would be interpersonally, and an example of that would be: praising, listening, cooperation, and accountability. The third way would be through your community. An example would be: advocacy, action, commitment, and celebration. You see, through One Person at a time, we create Oneness and Divine Spark by one thought, word, or action at a time. Oneness and Divine Spark create a peaceful family, a peaceful community, and ultimately, a peaceful world. What does Oneness and Divine Spark mean to you? Is it a phrase that you hear, or is it a living, breathing entity with a heart and soul of it’s own? Is it passive or active? Think about it as you move through your life. How can I, One Person make a difference?

MUSICAL SELECTION - Drumming and chant including congregation

8. AFFIRM YOUR COMMITMENT TO A FLOURISHING WORLD: THE TEXT

MINISTER: The Fuji Declaration is a call to consciously evolve with others and with nature to bring about a sustainable, flourishing world for all people and future generations. It is a call to all global citizens to recognize and nurture the full human potential and divine spark within each human spirit so as to collectively catalyze a timely shift in the course of human history.

By endorsing the declaration below, you affirm your commitment to live and act in alignment with the core principles of The Fuji Declaration and add your highest intentions to the growing movement to enlighten the world.

CONGREGATION: We, the undersigned, as individuals responsible for the future of life on Earth, hereby endorse:



SLIDE 1 ON SCREEN

I. MINISTER: Affirmation of the Light of Consciousness Within All Beings

CONGREGATION: We affirm the divine spark in the heart and mind of every human being and intend to live by its light in every sphere of our existence.



SLIDE 2 ON SCREEN

2. MINISTER: Commitment to Creating Lasting Peace on Earth

CONGREGATION: We commit ourselves to fulfilling a shared mission of creating lasting peace on Earth through our ways of living and acting



SLIDE 3 ON SCREEN

3. MINISTER: Intention to Live and Act on Behalf of all Life

CONGREGATION: We intend to live and act in ways that enhance the quality of life and the well-being of all forms of life on the planet, recognizing that all living things in all their diversity are interconnected and are one.



SLIDE 4 ON SCREEN

4. MINISTER: Freeing the Human Spirit for Deep Creativity

CONGREGATION: We will continually strive to free the human spirit for deep creativity, and to nurture the transformation necessary to forge a new paradigm in all spheres of human activity, including economics, science, medicine, politics, business, education, religion, the arts, communications and the media.



SLIDE 5 ON SCREEN

5. MINISTER: Mission to Advance a Harmonious Human Civilization

CONGREGATION: We shall make it our mission to design, communicate and implement a more spiritual and harmonious civilization that enables humankind to realize its inherent potential and advance to the next stage of its material, spiritual, and cultural evolution.

9. Closing Prayer/Meditation