

## I Want to Live John Denver

There are children raised in sorrow,  
on a scorched and barren plain  
There are children raised beneath the golden sun  
There are children of the water, children of the sand  
And they cry out through the universe,  
their voices raised as one

I want to live, I want to grow  
I want to see, I want to know  
I want to share, what I can give  
I want to be, I want to live

Have you gazed out on the ocean,  
seen the breaching of a whale?  
Have you watched the dolphins frolic in the foam?  
Have you heard the song the humpback hears  
five hundred miles away  
Telling tales of ancient history, of passages and home?

For the worker and the warrior, the lover and the liar  
For the native and the wanderer in kind  
For the maker and the user and the mother and her son  
I am looking for my family and all of you are mine

We are standing all together, face to face and arm in arm  
We are standing on the threshold of a dream  
No more hunger, no more killing, no more wasting life away  
It is simply an idea and I know its time has come

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### Thank You For Joining Us!

#### Prayer Leader:

Betsy Nero  
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Centering Space:  
14812 Lake Ave | Lakewood  
www.centeringspace.org  
216.228.7451  
centeringspace@srs charity.org

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“A bird does not sing  
because it has an answer.  
It sings because it has a song.”

Chinese Proverb



Photo by Rob Blair



Our prayer is characterized  
by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.  
God is present in all our lives.  
God cares for us, and  
our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.

## To Ponder: from *Following the Path* by Joan Chittister

“Happiness, I have come to understand, comes when what I choose to be about in life is actually worth spending my life doing...Deciding what we must do to be happy ourselves so that we can be a gift to the world around us is the central question of life.

Greek philosophers knew centuries ago, happiness doesn't come from the outside of us. Happiness comes from the inside. Happiness has something to do with who we are. Aristotle said happiness depended on our commitment and involvement in 'virtuous activity.' In doing good. It's about doing something that makes the world a better place to be.

Our unfinished selves never stop calling to us...It may take years for the heart to find the soul of itself, to know what that really is, but it will happen. Someday.

Boredom with the present situation may be a call to recognize a life not lived.

The point is that life is about living into the one great moment of insight, awareness, realization that changes us so that we can do what we are meant to do to change it for others, as well. Life is not a straight line, no matter how hard we work to make it so, no matter how certain we are that it must be...As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, 'Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood. We are meant to shape our souls out of the leavings of it and, rich or poor, female or male, leave this world less a statistic and more an icon to light the way for those who are to follow us, anything else is not a life at all; it is at best an existence.'”

## Reading: “Astonished and Amazed” from *Out of the Ordinary* by Joyce Rupp

like tulips long lying hidden  
suddenly springing forth  
making beauty out of sunlight

like soil caught and turned,  
warm, moist, and ready for seed,  
opening its heart for growing

like spring speaking to the day  
about the goodness of the earth,  
patterning green on every plain

like trickles of raindrops  
smoothing earth's rough edges,  
healing hardened hillsides

like all these quiet miracles  
so is the coming of Spirit,  
telling of the surge of life

urging me to gaze again  
upon my very common days,  
to look within and be amazed



Sharing...  
a word...  
a phrase...  
a reflection...