

Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday, December 6, 2020 via Zoom
10:15 AM Zoom site opens – 10:30 AM Service

The Joy of Sharing Stories

Music for Gathering

What A Wonderful World
by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss

Judy Putnam

Welcome

Terri Hansen

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

Advent Wreath Lighting

Opening Song

Bright Morning Stars Women of the Singing Group
American folk song, arr. James A. Lucas

Video

Finding Joy

Sharing Cares and Celebrations

Story for All Ages

Christmas Story: For the Man Who Hated Christmas
by Nancy W. Gavin

Meditation

Music for Remembering

My Favorite Things
by Rodgers and Hammerstein, performed by Yo-Yo Ma and
Chris Botti, from the CD *YoYo Ma & Friends, Songs of Joy and Peace*

Sharing Memorable Moments at NSUU Church

Offertory

Offertory Music

Angles We Have Heard on High
French carol, arr. David Lanz

Judy Putnam

Announcements

Closing Song

Over My Head
African American spiritual

Song Leader, Helen Brandt

Closing Words

by Ruth Gendler

Blessing

May love surround us,
May joy gladden us,
May peace lie deep within.
And may our lives,
And the lives of all
Those we touch,
Go well.

Edwin C. Lynn

Music notes

What a Wonderful World

The legendary New Orleans singer and trumpeter **Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong** had been making records since 1923, but in February 1968, at the age of 66, he released “What A Wonderful World,” which would become the biggest-selling song of his long and storied career. “What A Wonderful World” was very different from what he’d done before; a slow pop ballad that captured Armstrong in a rare reflective mood. With his craggy, weathered voice, he sang a song of hope that seemed to resonate with people everywhere. What made his performance magnetic was its poignancy: it was as if Armstrong, who was in his twilight years and ailing from a heart condition, was taking one last, appreciative look at life and taking stock of the simple things that most people take for granted.

Decades after its original release, Louis Armstrong’s “What A Wonderful World” continues to inspire through its timeless message of love, peace, and harmony. For Armstrong, it told a story of possibility. “It seems to me, it ain’t the world that’s so bad, but what we’re doing to it,” he said on the intro to his 1970 version of the song. “All I’m saying is, see what a wonderful world it would be, if only we’d give it a chance.”

-excerpted from Charles Wang in uDiscover Music

Bright Morning Stars

“Bright Morning Stars” is one of my favorite American folksongs. In addition to its beautiful words and gracefully arching phrases, I appreciate the song’s irregularity of meter on the final phrase of each verse. There’s something “alive” about song material that unfolds beyond the careful borders of symmetry. —Shawn Kirchner, composer, song writer, publisher.

*Bright morning stars are rising.
Bright morning stars are rising.
Bright morning stars are rising.
Day is a-breaking in my soul*

Oh, where are our dear mothers...

They are sowing seeds of gladness...

Oh, where are our dear fathers...

They are in the fields a-plowing...

My Favorite Things

From Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1959 musical, The Sound of Music, this song brings to mind the everyday things that bring each of us joy. As you listen to this familiar melody you might take time to recall moments in your NSUU life that have been meaningful to you. This rendition of *My Favorite Things* is from cellist Yo Yo Ma's Christmas album, Songs of Joy and Peace, released in 2008.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Who doesn't love the image of angels floating melodically over our heads as the interweaving harmonies create their own joy in our hearts? "Les anges" is a French noel (from the Languedoc region) believed to date from the eighteenth century. Its text and tune were first published in the Nouveau Recueil de Cantiques in 1855. The English translation originated as a free imitation from the French by James Chadwick, which was adapted by Henri Hemy in his Roman Catholic collection, Crown of Jesus Music (1862).

Over My Head

Over my head I hear music in the air (x 3)
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head I hear singing in the air (x 3)

Over my head I see trouble in the air. (x 3)

Over my head I feel gladness in the air. (x 3)

Over my head I see angels in the air. (x 3)

Spiritual "Over My Head" apparently dating from the 19th century but of unknown authorship, contains many of the same lines as "Up Above My Head" – "Over my head/I hear music in the air./There must be a God somewhere – and may be presumed to be its origin. Civil rights leader Bernice Johnson Reagon changed the traditional words of the song in 1961, to "Over my head/I see freedom in the air...". In 1995, the National Association for Music Education (then known as the Music Educators National Conference) published a list of songs that "every American should know", which included "Over My Head" -From Wikipedia