

**“The Attention Economy”**  
**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County**  
**Rev Denis Paul and Lee Cowan**  
**May 18, 2025**

**Blurb**

Children used to want to grow up to be firefighters and nurses as adults. Now, most say they want to be influencers and content creators on social media. What can we adults teach them about growing up and making a difference? And what can 9 and 10 yr olds teach adults through the questions they ask?

**Order of Service**

**Sounding the Chime**

**Welcome** Rev. Denis Paul, Minister

**Opening Hymn** - #118 *This Little Light of Mine*

**Chalice Lighting** **Lee Cowan**, Director of Religious Exploration

**Opening Words**

**Reciting the Covenant Together**

*Love is the spirit of this congregation,*

*And service is its prayer.*

*This is our great covenant:*

*To dwell together in peace,*

*To seek the truth in love,*

*And to help one another.*

**Affirmation Ceremony**

Beatrice, James and Lulu

**Singing to the Children with Love**

*Go with wisdom, go with wonder.*

*Go to meet a brand new day.*

*Learn to see the light within you*

*as we send you on your way.*

**Meditation**

the words of Rev. Tess Baumberger

## **Offering**

**Offertory** - #170 *We Are a Gentle, Angry People*

**Hymn** - #108 *My Life Flows On In Endless Song*

**Sermon** “The Attention Economy,” Rev Denis Paul

**Hymn** - #18 *What Wondrous Love*

## **Closing Words**

### **Extinguishing the Chalice**

*We extinguish this chalice, but not its light that we take with us, out into the world, sharing it with those we encounter on our journey.*

## **Announcements**

### **Closing Song**

*Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again (3x)*

**Postlude/Milling About Song** - *Applause by Lady Gaga*

## **Script**

**Sounding the Chime** Rev Denis

**Welcome and Announcements** Rev Denis

Welcome to the worship service of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County. I am Rev Denis Paul, minister of this congregation, and I have the legal duty to point out that in the unlikely event of an emergency you should exit quickly. You can go out the way you came in. Please reserve the ramp for people who need it, or help them if you can. You can also exit behind the pulpit or down the hall and to the left.

Recognizing that we all have different needs for safety, we are a mask-friendly congregation. If you see someone wearing a mask, please give them a little extra space, and be mindful of touching. And if you aren't feeling well, even if it seems like just a little cough, please join us by zoom.

It's a sacred time in the week, so let's all turn off or silence our cell phones now, so we can just be present, as we celebrate joys and sit in sadness in the fullness of our being.

Whatever your economic situation,  
whatever your citizenship or immigration status,  
whatever pronouns you prefer,  
you are welcome here,  
in this congregation of like-hearted individuals,  
dedicated to welcoming, loving, growing spiritually, and seeking justice.

I'd like to invite our congregational greeters to rise so that everyone can see who you are.

If you are a newcomer, we invite you to introduce yourself to one of these good people. They can answer any questions you have. And please, fill out the yellow Welcome Card in your hymnal, and put it in the collection basket during the offering.

If you're so inclined, feel free to introduce yourself during the part of the service we call Joys and Concerns.

Newcomers on Zoom, I'd like to invite you to introduce yourself to other participants, especially our virtual usher, Katt Lockwood.

Folks in the sanctuary, please rise now in body or in spirit, and open your gray hymnal to #118. This Little Light of Mine, which you may already know.

### **Opening Hymn - #118 This Little Light of Mine**

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Building up a world, I'm gonna let it shine.

Building up a world, I'm gonna let it shine.

Building up a world, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

### **Chalice Lighting Lee**

The act of lighting our chalice is packed with meaning. The fragile little flame protected by the solid wooden chalice. The same way everything we each hold dear inside of ourselves is protected by this loving congregation.

\_\_\_\_\_, would you light our chalice this morning, as I share the words of Rev. Brigitte Bechtold

We light our chalice, imagining  
What lies in the liminal space  
Between the flame and its circle  
What dwells in the interstitial space  
Between the cracks in our lives' pavements  
And the threads of our days' fabrics  
What meanings are hidden  
Between the words that we know  
And those we have yet to conceptualize  
What compassion flutters  
Between me and you and all of us  
Between the known and the mystery  
And we color it all with love

**Opening Words** Rev Denis

If you've been around for a while, you've likely heard me say this before.

I *came* to Unitarian Universalism for the abstract ideas: the theologies, the values, the covenants. I liked them all.

And I *stayed* for the kids. I have loved every single youth I've encountered in the congregations I've served. In a congregation that wasn't super warm or welcoming, it was the 14 year olds leading worship in May that made me think "Any congregation that can nurture people like this is a place I want to be."

Most of my ministry has been about not JUST getting to know the youngest among us. It's been about really integrating them into the life of the congregation so that they always know, no matter what happens or where they are, THAT WE BELONG TO THEM, and that this is a safe and loving place for them to bring their whole selves, even when they are loud or messy, the way all of us can be from time to time.

So let's rise now in body or in spirit, all of us, of every age group, at home and here in the sanctuary, as we recite together our covenant, which we renew each time we gather:

**Reciting the Covenant Together**

*Love is the spirit of this congregation,*

*And service is its prayer.*

*This is our great covenant:*

*To dwell together in peace,*

*To seek the truth in love,*

*And to help one another.*

**Affirmation Ceremony** Lee and Rev Denis

**Lee:** We have a group of 9 and 10 yr olds here who have been working together with me and Rev. Denis for the past three months in a program called the Wunder Explorers. We have been exploring the world together through careful observation, recording our responses and our emotions that arise from our experiences, engaging in the gentle art of self-reflection. We've also been recording and talking about what questions come up, what we wonder about as we reflect.

We started with an ice cream party where we very carefully experienced five different ice cream flavors with all five senses (did you know that ice cream actually makes a sound?!). Last month we visited the giant trolls at Ninigret Park, observing the interaction of art, nature and people. This month we climbed rock walls at the Rock Spot climbing gym.

Each experience was a new stretch: stretching our ability to sit with one single thing (like a raisin or a teeny tiny cup of ice cream) and really observing it and noticing how we feel. And then stretching a bit more to explore something out in the world, and then a bit more to do something physically challenging together.

We want to honor the exploring and the digging and the stretching and deepening these kids are doing and will continue to do as they grow.

**Denis:** One of the things we value most as Unitarian Universalists is asking questions, especially questions about how we relate to the world around us. Questions that help us become more compassionate. So, we are welcoming these three children into our culture of curiosity, by taking the time to answer their questions as best we can. Because their questions are important.

Beatrice, Luciana and James have each come up with a big question, which we will attempt to answer in a minute or less. All questions are good. Some of the BEST questions are the ones that are hard to answer. Your questions are so good they're impossible to answer completely in just a couple minutes.

**Lee:** The good thing is that we can look for answers together and share what we know. And that this is an ongoing journey of discovery, with new layers being uncovered as we grow and change and see new perspectives and ideas. And on this journey, we are *each of us* sharing what we know, together. I hope that all of you, especially you kids will continue to share what you know with us.

[all of the kids are in their seats, in the front row.]

**Rev Denis:** James is 10 years old, the son of Sarah and Peter Toatley, and many of us know his grandparents Linda White Burrell and Ed Burrell.

James' question is a compound question: "Why does my nose get itchy and feel funny with allergies? Why do our bones break?"

James, that is a really good question.

We often ask when bad things happen.

No answer.

These things just happen.

The important thing: how you deal with hard things

Always know that whatever... you're not alone.

**Lee:** And ya know what? I believe...no I *know* that we can do hard things. I watched it happen when you climbed a little bit higher at the climbing gym, beyond where it was comfortable. So even when something is uncomfortable, like allergies, we can learn how to be with that. And then climb a little higher.

James, would you come up?

**Lee:**

*Oh, James, Celebrate James*

*Sing it with an open and a joyful heart*

*Oh James celebrate James*

*sing it with an open heart.*

**Lee:**

"James, we affirm you, as a beloved member of our congregation, capable of compassion and curiosity"

Members of the congregation, please say joyfully "We affirm you, James"

**Lee:**

Beatrice is 10 years old, the daughter of Kari Kurto and April Ruedaflores

Bea's question is "How does technology WORK? How is there so much inside of a little rectangular phone?"

Amazing isn't it? Really mind-blowing that a single piece of technology, the cell phone, can have access to so many things: the internet for one, which is access to a whole world of information and connection. And then every app you can ever think of. And all the games! Plus utilitarian things that were themselves each a piece of new technology at one time: like a calculator, a stopwatch, a compass, a clock.

And that's the thing about technology: we humans love to invent. To innovate. We love to wonder "how can we make this work better?" or "how can we solve this problem or situation with a better tool?" Like a super early technology that changed humanity was the wheel. It seems so simple and obvious now, but it was revolutionary. It made it so that people could move massively heavy things, animals could pull carts and people could travel much farther distances than before. That changed the world.

So I can't explain the inner workings of a cell phone, but I hear in your question so much awe and wonder at this technology and I love that. It's that wonder that keeps us innovating and it's with each innovation that people continue to wonder more.

Bea, would you come up?

**Lee:**

Oh, Bea, Celebrate Bea  
Sing it with an open and a joyful heart  
Oh Bea celebrate Bea  
sing it with an open heart.

**Denis:**

"Bea, we affirm you, as a beloved member of our congregation, capable of compassion and curiosity"  
Members of the congregation, please say joyfully "We affirm you, Bea"

**Denis:**

Luciana is 9 years old, the daughter of Bethany and Joseph Sorrentino

Lulu's question is why did we have to invent money and why do things have to cost money?

Early humans traded between families and communities.

You may not have what I want...stones/shells

Hard to carry....paper money

Money is what we trade our life energy for so we can get the things we need (and want)

So money is a reflection of values, what we find important.

It's important to not give our money to people who will use it to harm us or others.

**Lee:** And this reminds me of the giant trolls and the one with those gorgeous necklaces made of shells and precious stones. Maybe she was bartering? Maybe she was decorating sacred spaces. But she was certainly putting her creative life energy towards making the world a more beautiful place.

Lulu, would you come up?

**Lee:**

Oh, Lulu, Celebrate Lulu  
Sing it with an open and a joyful heart  
Oh Lulu celebrate Lulu  
sing it with an open heart.

**Lee:**

"Lulu, we affirm you, as a beloved member of our congregation, capable of compassion and curiosity"  
Members of the congregation, please say joyfully "We affirm you, Lulu"

**Singing to the Children with Love Lee**

*Go with wisdom, go with wonder.  
Go to meet a brand new day.  
Learn to see the light within you  
as we send you on your way.*

**Meditation** Rev Denis

This is one of those rare Sundays when we are not sharing our joys and concerns aloud, but I wanted to bring into this sacred space the sad news that Warren Beckwith, longtime friend of the congregation and husband of Barbara Beckwith, died yesterday ending an intense battle with cancer. He entered hospice a few weeks ago, and was blessed to be surrounded by his wife and daughters and children. Barb was alone with him when he passed. No arrangements have been made yet, but we'll keep you posted.

Now, holding the dissonance of joyful children and lost life, let's take a moment now to regroup, shall we? I invite you shake your hands or your feet if you like wherever you are, Before finding a comfortable position.

Shift if you need to to really settle down  
And feel your body.

What are your sensations at the moment?

What do you smell or taste?

What do you hear?

What do you see? It's okay to look around as much as you like.

Do you see people or things that you love?

Do you see anyone who is new to you?

What are the emotions coming up for you?

Are you reminded of anything?

Do your memories bring you comfort? or something else?

Just breathe.

And notice how your emotions feel in your body.

Remember that you have within you the ability to deal with whatever feeling you have,

And people who love you to be present.

No matter what.

Now this prayer, a gift from Rev. Tess Baumberger:

Wouldn't it be great if you could take a picture of your soul?

Then when your mother wanted to brag about you  
she could show people the picture and say,  
"That's my daughter, doesn't she have a beautiful soul, all sparkly and many-colored and flowing  
all around her?"

Wouldn't it be great if we walked around  
surrounded by our souls,  
so that they were the first things people saw  
instead of the last things?  
Then people would judge us by who we really are  
instead of how we look.  
Imagine no more racism, ageism, sexism, fatism, shortism, homophobia.  
Imagine falling in love with who a person is,  
just by looking at them.

It would be a kind of cloaking device,  
hiding physical faults defects or even perfections.  
I'd want it to be mandatory.  
Then people would work at making their souls more attractive  
instead of their bodies and faces.

Imagine people knowing by your soul that you really need a hug.  
Imagine people helping each other and their souls changing colors  
or growing.

Imagine soul gyms  
with exercises to get your sagging soul in shape.  
Imagine the long lines forming for soul-lifts  
at churches, temples, mosques, synagogues  
or nature's grand cathedrals.

May it be so.

**Hymn - #108 *My Life Flows On In Endless Song***

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.  
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.  
What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love prevails in heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble as they hear the bells of freedom ringing;  
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing!  
From prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;  
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

**Offering** Rev Denis

Kids have the greatest questions, even when they don't mean to. A colleague recently was telling the kids one Sunday about the biblical story of Lot. She said "the man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee...out of the city ... but when his wife looked back ... she turned into a pillar of salt."

One child jumped up, waving his hand.  
"What happened to the flea?"

Of course she told him what a great question it was, and took the opportunity to clarify what she said, then told the boy that all questions, get us to see things from a different angle, so questions are valuable CONTRIBUTIONS.

And so this is your reminder, that as we accept the offering this morning, ALL CONTRIBUTIONS are valuable.

**Offertory** - #170 *We Are a Gentle, Angry People*

We are a gentle, angry people,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a gentle, angry people,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

We are a justice seeking people,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a justice seeking people,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

We are young and old together,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are young and old together,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

We are a land of many colors,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a land of many colors,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are gay and straight together,

and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are gay and straight together,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

We are a gentle, angry people,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a gentle, angry people,  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

**Sermon** “The Attention Economy,” Rev Denis Paul

For several decades we lived in an information economy. If your my age or older you remember what that was like. The United States was no longer a powerhouse of industrial manufacturing, it was a leader in technology. In that economy, facts, figures and demographics reigned supreme as generated the ideas and designs behind increasingly more sophisticated technologies. It was a time of CONSTANT wonder and marvel.

Then, Millennials — born roughly between 1982 and 2000 — started coming of age, and everything shifted. They had all the information they needed in the electronic devices that became ubiquitous during their childhood and youth. As adult drivers of the economy, they were interested in information that came so easily, they were interested in authenticity. They didn't just want to buy a product, or service, they wanted a story.

There's an old skit from a TV Show called Portlandia in which a couple dining asks a server about the farm the chicken comes from. They learn about Colin, go to visit the farm, and get sucked into a cult by its charismatic leader. In the authenticity economy, the more unique a story, the more value it had.

But now they say we're in an attention economy, in which ubiquitousness and affordability drive the marketplace. I can think of two people who sum up the attention economy.

First: Kylie Jenner, the youngest of the Kardashian clan, daughter of Kris and Caitlyn Jenner. By Age 20 she was a mother and a billionaire. Everything she does becomes an instant sensation. Once she wore sheer tights — the ultimate in throw away fast fashion — AS PANTS! Her underwear was on full display. She made it a thing. Thankfully that thing came and went so fast it never made it to little old South County.

Because they are inescapable, she and her sisters are role models for children of all genders because they get to make billions of dollars just living their lives and posting pictures of it. So it shouldn't be a surprise that most kids now want to be influencers when they grow up. More than half of all kids. Not doctors, lawyers, teachers or firefighters. Of course kids don't realize that influencers spend their entire lives working for attention. They get no time off. It's exhausting in its own way.

There's this other person, whose name I don't want to know, who makes highly edited reels in which she dumps all manner of ultraprocessed "FOOD" into a huge disposable roasting pan, usually with fast food fries and an enormous block of cheese in the middle, cooks it, then tastes it saying "Mmmmm. So good. And so good for you."

She gets millions of hits. Some think it's funny but most are ANGRY and leave rageful comments, calling her stupid, lazy and even dangerous. But she responds to everyone, antagonizes them, so they stick around and fight with her. Engagement creates more engagement, so that she ends up in everyone's feed, which brings more engagement. She is the epitome of ubiquity. She's unavoidable online. At least she was the last time I looked at Instagram.

Engagement is money. It doesn't even have to be good engagement. In the attention economy, the most hated person in the world can get wealthy by simply BEING the most hated person in the world.

Politicians have picked up on this, so many of them don't care about doing the right thing, or representing anyone, because now the measure of success in the attention economy is engagement. They'll be re-elected even if they are despised, simply because they are getting attention. And if they do care about doing the right thing, how can they take attention away from the showboaters? Stand in front of congress and speak for 25 hours? Sure it felt great while Corey booker did that. But six weeks later? Ancient history.

I find myself grappling with how to compete with that. I mean how do I — the  $\frac{3}{4}$  time minister of a small congregation in the smallest denomination in the smallest state — how do I compete for attention with the likes of these people? I gotta tell you: I have no interest in doing what I would have to do to get the engagement I'd need to get our message out there. And the very, very, very few ministers who are getting huge engagement: ALL they do is work social media. Their sermons are summaries of their posts during the week.

And if I'm honest, in this liberal congregation, where we come from different faiths and different backgrounds, with different needs and expectations, the people who get attention from me and the leaders who do all the work are the most tenacious folks with the loudest voices. Sorry, introverts. Seriously. I know it's hard to believe, but I am an introvert. I get your struggle. And still, the people who come directly to me are the ones who get the majority of my attention.

You know, just last week, the Committee on Ministry — who seem to be everywhere around here lately — facilitated an evaluation of the ministry with me, Lee and representatives from a few key committees, including the board. My biggest take away was that I don't do anywhere near as much as I hope to of the things that support you all personally. I don't get to call you to chat with you or visit you at home as much as I want, even though those are the very things that feed my ministerial soul.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not complaining. Seriously. I love you all and care for you all. But that's just how it works in the world, especially since we are all accustomed to this attention economy. Even if we don't realize it.

The bottom line is that for all of us, it's just become more difficult to concentrate, to meet our goals, and to just do the things we want to do in any given day, with everything vying for our attention every second. We end up letting ourselves down. We let down the people around us. I bet the children of "so-good-and-so-good-for-you-woman," are let down not only by her cooking, but by the amount of her attention she has to put into capturing everyone else's attention.

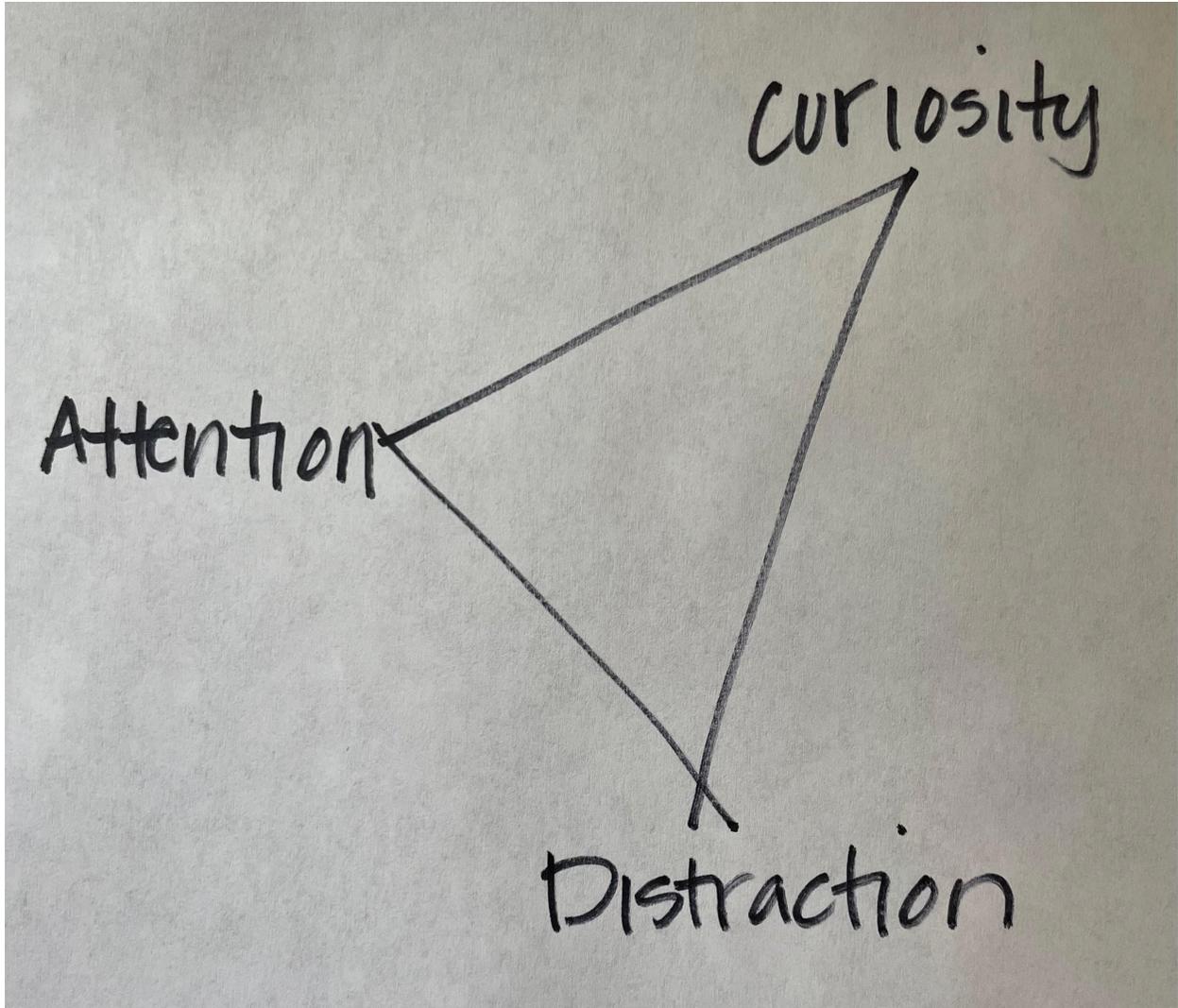
A few weeks ago, I went to the biggest catalogue I know of books — Amazon — and found more than 20 titles with the words "attention economy," 20. All from the last two years. All but one were manuals for taking advantage of the problem, instructions for getting attention. Quick, cheap attention.

One book stood out. *The Politics of Attention: Alternatives to the Attention Economy*, A collection of essays edited by Italian Sociologist Enrico Campo and French professor of literature and media Yves Citton.

In their introduction, They say that the crisis of the attention economy is so obvious, so undisputed, that they don't even waste time trying to prove or disprove it. Instead they ask readers to reframe our understanding two ways:

First, they say that to think of attention as the polar opposite of distraction is an unhelpful false binary. (Can I just say, the more I think about binaries of all types, the less use I have for them?)

Anyway, they want us to think of attention and distraction, as a complementary triangle with curiosity:



Not as a vertical triangle with one at the top, but as a horizontal plane in which they they balance on a fulcrum at the center, each not a point on the triangle, but blending into each other, each with its own pros and cons.

Attention is good because it allows us to meet our goals and focus our attention on people and things that matter to us. It's bad when it becomes hyper focus that takes us away from whom and what we love.

Curiosity is great because it drives us to learn about the unfamiliar, which builds compassion and inspires big, innovative thinking. It's bad when it turns into data mining, digging deeper and deeper for more information, which can become intellectual paralysis.

Distraction is great because it allows us to pull the other two back enough to give us the time to apply complex ideas to our own circumstances and daydream about what could be. But it's bad when it becomes an avoidance tactic.

Attention Curiosity and distraction are like like body, mind and soul. If one has too much power or weight on that fulcrum, it collapses.

Second, Campo and Citton want us to think of this triangle on a fulcrum existing within us, individually and collectively AND, as study say, in “multiple feedback loops between acquired habits, technical networks, sociopolitical institutions, and cultural schemes.”

In other words every individual and every group at every level is balancing this triangle of attention, curiosity and distraction. AND none of us was created in a vacuum. We arrived with our own personalities AND we are the products of every family, community and organization in which we have ever lived.

They didn't say this, but I will:

Balancing mind, body and spirit keeps us healthy, physically and morally.

Balancing income, expenses and values keeps us healthy, financially and morally.

And so balancing attention, curiosity and distraction keeps us healthy socially and morally.

It really is all about breaking down the binary and embracing the balance of triangles, isn't it? I feel like that's what we've been trying to teach our kids. It's no wonder they are asking about things like our bodies, money, and technology.

Right after the service, the Committee on Ministry is hosting a conversation lead by professional facilitator Rebecca Foster. We're going to be talking a bit more about some of the bigger issues that are on the hearts and minds of members and friends of this congregation.

You know, too many of the issues that are weighing on us right now seem to be getting simplified — perhaps even oversimplified — in binary terms defined by their tensions.

Young v. Old.

Upstairs v. Downstairs.

Safety v. Justice.

Serving congregants v. Serving the wider community.

Keeping our organizational structure exactly as it is v. Blowing it all up and starting from scratch.

Today is a time to hear one another's concerns and ideas, not so that we can convince anyone to change sides. It's a time to really listen to each other, break down the false binaries, and seek the third points that can help us find balance. Instead of tension.

I said this last week at the beginning of Joys and Concerns: it's tempting to put our attention to mentally composing what we want to say, So we get distracted from really listening. And end up feel more disappointed than curious.

So today, let's dismantle the attention economy by fully giving speakers our full attention, while also being present to our own emotions, nurturing especially our curiosity.

How radical would that be in this world?

May it be so.

Please rise now, or remain seated to sing with gusto, number 18 What Wondrous Love

**Hymn - #18 What Wondrous Love**

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?  
What wondrous love is this that brings my heart such bliss  
And takes away the pain of my soul, of my soul,  
And takes away the pain of my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down  
When I was sinking down beneath my sorrows ground  
Friends to me gathered round, O my soul, O my soul,  
Friends to me gathered round.

To love and all friends I will sing, I will sing,  
To love and to all friends I will sing.  
To love and to all friends who pain and sorrow mend,  
With thanks unto the end, I will sing, I will sing,  
With thanks unto the end, I will sing.

**Closing Words** Rev Denis

As we end our time together,  
may we all be in touch with our minds, our bodies, or souls  
May we remember that even when we are sinking down,  
We have friends nearby  
to bring us back to the core of who we are  
And that together,  
We can always sing.

**Extinguishing the Chalice**

*We extinguish this chalice, but not its light that we take with us, out into the world, sharing it with those we encounter on our journey.*

**Announcements**

On Tuesday we'll be working together to do a big spring cleaning downstairs in the RE space, moving furniture, washing windows, wiping all the toys... the whole enchilada. That's 9-2. Please let Mike Bilecki know how you can help if you can be there.

The annual meeting is coming up fast. On June 8, after the service, we'll gather to review the year, approve the budget for next year, and vote in new lay leaders. Keep an eye out in your email for the information packet.

And of course in just a few minutes, we will begin our follow-up to the April 6th Listening Session. Everyone is invited to join the conversation.

Today and for the Annual meeting, we'll be here in the sanctuary, and folks joining us on Zoom can stay connected to be part of the conversation.

**Closing Song**

*Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again (3x)*

**Postlude/Milling About Song** - *Applause by Lady Gaga*