

# **“Blessing New Life”**

**April 29, 2007**

*“We create our own traditions for the same reason we create our own families, to know where we belong.” -- Ellen Goodman*

## **Opening Song -- “Create in Me A New Life”**

Create in me a new life , a new life wild and free  
Born for roaring, and for soaring  
That can reach and wrestle with you.

## **Interfaith Responsive Reading**

**Reader:** We gather here as an Interfaith Community  
To share and celebrate the gift of life together

*All: Some of us gather as the Children of Israel  
Some of us gather in the name of Jesus of Nazareth  
Some of us gather influenced by each*

**Reader:** However we come, and whoever we are  
May we be moved, In our time together  
To experience that sense of Divine presence in each of us  
Evoked by our worship together

*All: And to know in the wisdom of our hearts  
That deeper unity in which all are one.*

## **Welcome and Joys -- Rev. Julia Jarvis and Rabbi White**

### **Song ~ “This Little Light of Mine”**

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine (3x)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Nobody blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine (3x)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!  
All around the world, I’m gonna let it shine (3x)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine (3x)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

### **Community:**

*Grant us the strength in mind and spirit necessary to teach our children to be good and wise and to cherish life. Help us to support them in their journey and teach them the value of diversity and open-mindedness.*

### **Christian Prayer ~ “The Lord’s Prayer”**

Our Father who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, amen

### **Jewish Prayer ~ “The Shema”**

She-ma Yisrael A-do-nai El-o-hay-nu A-do-nai E-chad  
(*Hear O Israel the Lord Our God, The Lord is One*)

### **Readings:**

This type of circumcision, by definition a circumcision of the spirit and not the flesh, goes to the heart of a man, to his soul, his essence, his attitudes and relationship with God. Because this theme of an inner circumcision is so important, God repeats and stresses it, as in Deuteronomy 10:12-16: No one cuts up a fine silk scarf to patch up old work clothes; you want fabrics that match. And you don't put your wine in cracked bottles. (Matthew 10:16 The Message)

### **Reflection ~ “New Rituals” ~ Rabbi White**

#### **Blessings ~ Rev. Julia Jarvis**

Bless our children's minds with intelligence and wisdom  
Bless their eyes so they will see great vistas  
Bless their nose with delicious and fragrant aromas  
Bless their mouth for the enjoyments of tasting and talking  
Bless their hearts with deep love and a strong steady beat  
Bless their arms for embracing friendship and love  
Bless their feet so they will carry them happily through their days.

#### **Tallit Wrapping Blessing ~ Rabbi White**

May the source of all life embrace you and teach you to savor each day. May you enjoy life within this community and take the lessons learned here wherever you go. may you realize the joy of growth and be able to enter the future with a sense of wonder. May you wake up every wonder with a sense of radical amazement, realizing how beautiful the unfolding of each day is.

#### **Poem ~ “Promise for a Welcoming World”**

*Women:* And the child watched the sun, and listened to the wind  
Looking out the window at the treasures of the world.

*Men:* And the child heard the welcome ringing in the voices  
Hopeful and courageous, singing to the sea.

*Children:* And the child's eyes saw clearly, far beyond the village  
Hands applauding children, playing in the sun.

*All:* And the child dreamed of friendship  
And the child's dreams were happy  
And the child dreamed of children, everywhere circling  
Circling for all time a welcoming world. Amen.

### **Benediction and Charge**

*All: May we go out into the world carrying with each of us the love and blessing of this Interfaith Community*

**Reader:** May we continue to hold on to what is good and to stand as beacons of light and understanding for all people.

*All: May God's spirit and peace be with us each now and forever.*

**Reader:** May the Lord bless you and keep you and bring you peace. Amen.

### **Kindness Prayers ~ led by the Kindergarten Class**

Give us grateful hearts, O God, for all thy mercies  
And make us ever mindful of the needs of others, Amen.  
*(from the book of Common Prayer)*

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can  
In all the ways you can, in all the places you can  
To all the people you can, as long as you ever can, Amen.

### **Closing Song -- "Turn, Turn, Turn"**

To every thing, turn, turn, turn  
There is a season, turn, turn, turn  
And a time to every purpose under heaven *(sing between verses)*

A time to be born, a time to die  
A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal  
A time to laugh, a time to weep

A time to build up, a time to break down  
A time to dance, a time to mourn  
A time to cast away stones  
A time to gather stones together

A time of love, a time of hate  
A time of war, a time of peace  
A time you may embrace  
A time to refrain from embracing

A time to gain, a time to lose

A time to rend, a time to sow  
A time to love, a time to hate  
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late