

A Wonder-Full Life Take Home Page

Looking In

Candle Lighting to begin the spiritual practice

I light this flame to affirm that where there is light,
there is understanding;
where there is understanding, there is compassion;
where there is compassion,
there is possibility;
where there is possibility; there is transformation.

Holy and Living God,
transform my fears into awe-inspired wonder.
Open me to this light,
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us for a “wonder-full” life.

Quote from It’s a Wonderful Life:

“You’ve been given a great gift, George: a chance to see what the world would be like without you. ... Strange, isn’t it? Each man’s life touches so many other lives, and when he isn’t around, he leaves an awful hole, doesn’t he?”
The angel Clarence Odbody

We live an “incarnational” faith—the belief that (like Jesus) our faith is not just an idea, but it gets lived out in our actions in the world. Now that we have taken an honest look at our past, our wounds, and our tendencies around money, it becomes easier to look at our relationship with money in the present moment. This week we integrate money and meaning by articulating our values, our talents, and our intentions for living a spiritual and meaningful life. If we can articulate this, we can create a “courageous vision” for our presence and impact in the world. This is the bedrock for how we “spend” our assets— time, energy, and money—so that we approach the life we have left with attentiveness and an intention to make it a truly “wonder-full” life.

- Sit for a moment with this idea: You suddenly find out you have five to ten years to live. You won’t be debilitated; you will simply die suddenly within that time frame. Think about it for a while. What would you change about your life? What would stay the same? What choices would you make? In what new direction would you turn? What are the money implications of your decisions? Would your answers change if you had only one year left? How about one day?

- If you had to say what is “enough” wealth, what would you say? What do you believe would happen if you didn’t have “enough”?

- What would it feel like if you did have “enough”? Would this be a “wonderful life” for you?

- Make a list of your talents and gifts, those you were born with and those you have cultivated. Next make a list of who and what you believe you value. Compare the lists. Do your gifts serve what you value?

Closing Prayer

Gracious God,
Looking inward, we recognize our own hesitation to see and believe what people can accomplish together.
Give us the courage to bring the vision of your hospitality and justice to life now and for the future.
In the name of the one who called all to the true treasure of life with God, Jesus the Christ. Amen.