**Contemplative Service for Wednesday,**

**May 17, 2023**



*Painting by William Blake*

# First reading: Romans 16:19

# The report of your unity and collaboration has reached to all, and so I am rejoicing over you, for I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

# Music: “In Christ There is No East of West,” performed by Leo Kottke

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24CsRD1BMhM>

# Second reading: “Forever Young” by Bob Dylan

May God bless and keep you always  
May your wishes all come true  
May you always do for others  
And let others do for you

May you build a ladder to the stars  
And climb on every rung  
May you stay forever young

May you grow up to be righteous  
May you grow up to be true  
May you always know the truth  
And see the light surrounding you  
May you always be courageous  
Stand upright and be strong  
May you stay forever young

May your hands always be busy  
May your feet always be swift  
May you have a strong foundation  
When the winds of changes shift

May your heart always be joyful  
May your song always be sung  
And may you stay forever young  
May you stay forever young

# Music: “Accordion Bells” by Leo Kottke

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HE0CKC3Jkfw>

# Time of Silent Contemplation

*Today  
yes, today  
(yes, even today)  
may beauty find  
may gentleness soften  
may care reach  
may spirit soothe  
may life meet  
you and you and you and us  
in each broken open space  
in each broken open heart  
in this broken open world*

*– Rev. Anna Blaedel*

# Communal Blessing

# Refresh our innocence, Holy Friend. It has not been lost at all, but our innocence does need to be bathed with care and joy. We want this sacred life to be unself-conscious and eager. Show us how to step forward into the waters of your stream and to splash with pleasure. And there you are, with us, when we rise from the current with shining faces and refreshed souls. We thank you in the abandon with which we play. Amen.

# Music: Medley: Crow River Waltz/Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring/Jack Fig by Leo Kottke

# https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO10ovIRj2Q

*Now may the God of peace sanctify you entirely;*

*and may your spirit and soul and body be innocent and preserved complete.*

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Come volunteer with us for a work day at **The Good Table**, an exciting project of The Good Table UCC! They are creating a nursery in collaboration with Planting for Justice which trains and employs formerly incarcerated people. Work days to support this project the last Saturday of each month (May 27) from 12-3. Bring gloves and sturdy shoes and a sun hat—or just arrive around 12 for a tour! Those who can stay will weed, prune, and help prepare the building for renovations.

Address: 5166 Sobrante Ave. in El Sobrante (at the former Adachi Nursery)

Let Elizabeth know if you’d like to arrange for carpooling!